WHAT GOD HATH WROUGHT

THROUGH CHRIST'S HOME

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What God hath wrought
through Christ's Home

WHAT GOD HATH WROUGHT

THROUGH

CHRIST'S HOME

1903 - 1963

WARMINSTER, PA.

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Chapel at Christ's Home, Warminster, Pa.

This is the simple story of God's leading in the establishment of Christ's Home as a haven for homeless and destitute children, as well as older folks who have no resources: How He called the founders and the staff; how He worked miracles in answer to fervent prayer; how He raised up supporters and prospered the work—until today it stands as a monument to His faithfulness, goodness and grace.

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES OF CHRIST'S HOME

COMMISSION (Luke 18:16)

Jesus . . . said: *"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."*

The purpose or calling of Christ's Home is two-fold: First, to gather in needy and dependent children, caring for them, and teaching them about the Lord Jesus Christ as their creator and redeemer; second, to call out a people for His name. *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Col. 1:27b) is the secret of a life yielded to God, that glorifies His name.

MOTTO (Phil. 4:19)

"My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus."

To Christ's Home this means: No begging or soliciting; no drives for funds, for food, clothing, shelter. Sole reliance upon God has been the underlying principle of the Home since its founding in 1903—and still is.

PETITION (1 Thess. 2:12)

"That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you to His kingdom and glory."

No one is asked to join the work as a staff member. That must be a definite call from God to the heart of the one who desires to labor in His vineyard at Christ's Home.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicted to all staff members and helpers, especially to the newer staff members of Christ's Home, for upon their shoulders rests the burden of carrying on the work in the tradition established by the founders.

May they learn from the experience of their forebears to trust and to rely wholly upon God's promises, as tests and trials, heartaches and difficulties are encountered.

May they never deviate from the foundation principles laid upon the hearts of the founders by the Lord. May He grant that His abiding presence be their comfort and their stay.

It is also desired that this book may prove to be a real blessing and an inspiration to the Home's many faithful friends and prayer-warriors, and to all who may read this story of God's marvelous faithfulness to Christ's Home, even in the midst of seemingly adverse circumstances.

What God hath wrought through Christ's Home, in answer to fervent prayer, is a sublime climax to sixty years of trusting His promises and of relying solely upon the Almighty One.

CHALLENGE OF A CHARTER STAFF MEMBER

Not only has Christ revealed Himself to the staff as the Almighty Redeemer by means of the blood shed on Calvary—He also desires that each one may come into that vital union with Him so that He can prove that He still answers prayer.

"God is not wanting great men (or women), but He is wanting those who will dare to prove the greatness of their God."

"Let us come nigh to God that we may draw heavily upon the resources of God."

We have found through our daily experiences that: "There is no way of learning faith except by trial." The apostle Peter declares that:

> *"The trial of your faith is much more precious than of gold (that perishes) and though it be tried with fire, may it be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 1:7)

Our prayer is that this telling of a few of the many marvelous acts of our heavenly Father, which He wrought through faith and prayer in behalf of Christ's Home, be a blessing to all who may read. May many be inspired to press on in their Christian experience to a closer and more intimate fellowship with their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

By faith may they grow in grace and the knowledge of Him until He becomes a "living reality"—a most intimate and loving personal saviour and companion.

THE ORIGINAL STAFF PIONEERED THROUGH PRAYER

As the work grew, although there was little money in the treasury, it was through these severe testings and trials that the staff's trust in the Lord was strengthened, and God could lead on to greater heights. Prayer became the stronghold of each staff member. Even the children were taught to trust the Lord for all their needs. It touched one's heart and brought tears to many an eye that listened to the devout prayers of the children for their daily bread. But praise was continually ascending to the throne of grace and joy filled the hearts even when the pantry was bare.

During these pioneer days one often did not know where the next meal was coming from. By prayer and intercession, however, the Lord supplied the need—often in a miraculous manner. There was reason to praise God for His faithfulness.

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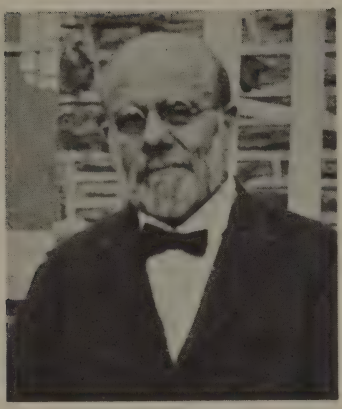
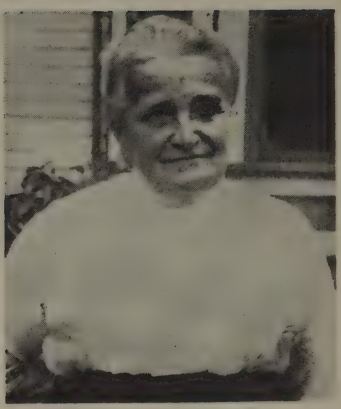
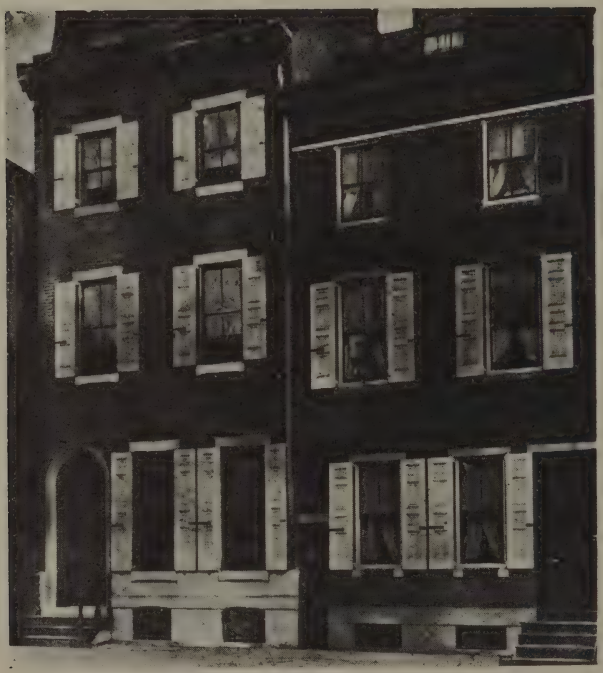


Dr. Albert Oetinger



Mother Krausslach



Original Christ's Home at 981-83 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, Pa., 1903-07

FOREWORD

This is the story of what God hath wrought through believing prayer for Christ's Home from 1903 to 1963!

Christ's Home is a faith home for dependent children, the aged, a missionary rest and for general mission work. Situated in Warminster, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on Old York Road, Route 263, it is about three miles north of Hatboro, and some 20 miles north of Philadelphia.

Christ's Home was founded October 1, 1903, at 981 N. Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The founders were Dr. Albert Oetinger, a pharmacist of Fifth and George Streets, Philadelphia, lovingly known as "Daddy Oetinger" and his wife Catharine. A partner in the founding was Miss Katharina Louise Krausslach. (She became the matron and was lovingly called "Mother," by which name she has always been remembered.) Miss Barbara Schmidt and a dear friend of Dr. Oetinger, known as Brother LeFever, joined with these dear ones at the dedication of 981 N. Fifth Street. They all knelt in prayer, promising the Lord that they would trust Him to supply all needs—not soliciting, begging or asking anyone for help, but trusting the Almighty to provide the funds, the food, and everything needed.

They also prayed for the staff to man the institution. They promised to stand on God's promise in Phil. 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Praise be unto God for He has never failed to keep His promises during the sixty years since the inception of the Home.

Dr. Oetinger and the group entered the house with a Bible, a bucket, a broom, a scrub brush, a loaf of bread and a bag of salt—carried by Brother LeFever as he said, "for good luck." Mother Krausslach had her own bedroom furniture. Mrs. Oetinger gave a large double bed, a mattress and a few dishes for the opening of the Home. Although Christ's Home had a very humble beginning, a rich Heavenly Father has lovingly cared for His work through the trials and tests of faith and the changing vicissitudes of life.

Dr. Oetinger lived a few doors below the Home and visited it many times each day. Prayer meetings were held daily. He also conducted Bible classes Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings. During these years many heard the blessed gospel story, and were led into a deeper life in Christ through his ministry. The staff, especially, owes him much for growth in grace and knowledge of the Word. He was truly a spiritual father to all.

Dr. Oetinger was interested in foreign as well as home missions. At one time he was with the African Inland Mission as Vice President. He also was forwarding agent for the Mission and helped to prepare Brother Charles Hurlburt's outfit as he arranged to go to Africa to replace the vacancy in the staff on the field. (This was after the death of Cameron Scott, who laid down his life for the Gospel in the continent of "dark" Africa.)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE FOUNDERS

DR. ALBERT OETINGER

Dr. Albert Oetinger was born in Philadelphia July 20, 1865, the only child of Gottlieb and Katharine Oetinger. He was a graduate of Central High School and the School of Pharmacy, both in Philadelphia. He attended Jefferson Medical College and was associated with Dr. Agnew for some time.

The conversion of Dr. Oetinger took place during this period. The Lord worked in his heart by the Holy Spirit in mighty conviction. He saw himself a sinner, lost and undone. He accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his saviour, and from that time the Lord was a living reality to him. He then learned to walk step by step with his Saviour.

In 1890, Dr. Oetinger purchased a drug store at Fifth and George Streets, which he operated until 1909. In 1892, he married Catharine Kaiser of Pottstown, Pa. Three sons were born of this union: Walter, Herbert and Freddie. The youngest, Freddie, died early in life.

After the establishment of his drug store, Dr. Oetinger devoted a great deal of time to work among outcasts in the slums of Philadelphia. He operated a dispensary in Chinatown and was always ready to help the needy, day or night, whenever called upon. He started Sunday School groups among homeless children, who lived along the waterfront or wherever they could find a place, and he gathered them annually for a picnic in Fairmount Park. Laying aside his own comfort and welfare, he consecrated himself to the service of his Master.

At one of the picnics Dr. Oetinger met Miss Katharina Krausslach, who had been among the poor and needy in many parts of the world. From this chance meeting there developed what was to become Christ's Home! God Himself moved upon the hearts of these two devoted ones to begin a work of faith in caring for homeless and destitute children.

Begun in the city of Philadelphia in 1903, the Home moved to Warminster —then far into the countryside—in 1907. Soon after, Dr. Oetinger sold his drug store and spent all his strength in preaching, praying, teaching. His eldest son, Walter, was associated with him, as secretary of the Home.

In 1917, Dr. Oetinger was injured seriously in an automobile accident, lying unconscious in the hospital for several weeks. Physicians gave little hope, saying that if he lived he would neither walk nor talk. In answer to prayer, however, he was raised up and, although paralyzed on the right side, he learned to both walk and talk.

Two years later, Walter Oetinger, oldest son and one who had assumed a great deal of responsibility at the Home, was suddenly called to be with his Lord at age 27. Then, a few months after, Walter's wife died. This left two young children to be cared for by their grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Oetinger.

Through all this trial and sore testing, Brother Oetinger had his eyes on the unchanging One. Even in the most trying times, he would praise God that "all things work together for good." Despite a lame body and many handicaps, he faithfully attended his duties.

For 17 long years, after the accident, he carried on. His daily tasks were never neglected. The sick were comforted, the staff counselled, all the responsibilities of the fast expanding work were shouldered.

Sunday, June 17, 1934, Dr. Oetinger departed this life to appear in the presence of his Lord, whom he had served so faithfully.

MOTHER KRAUSSLACH

Katharina Louise Krausslach was born in Germany, January 29, 1855, the second of five sisters. Godly parents reared the girls in the fear and admonition of the Lord. As a result it was a very happy and devoted family.

Katharina Louise was outstanding in her consecration to the Lord, always doing something for others. When she reached the age of 18, the Lord Jesus worked upon her heart by the Holy Spirit, creating a desperate need for the Saviour. He came into her heart, filling it with joy that never faded—to her last hour. This was her strength!

Katharina's eyes were turned towards America as she heard from her sister in Philadelphia of the great possibilities for youth in that land of promise. Soon after her arrival the remainder of the family followed across the ocean to their adopted homeland. Sister Theresa joined Katharina in the work of Christ's Home, shortly after its inception. All of the sisters preceded Katharina Louise to their eternal home.

The Lord prepared Katharina Louise for His service, permitting her to obtain employment as lady's maid to Mrs. Garrett, wife of the president of the B & O Railroad. In this capacity she served 18 years, crossing the ocean many times, visiting Europe, India, China, Japan. Then she felt led of the Lord to engage in children's work, and in preparation she undertook a kindergarten course in the Mary Drexel Home.

The Lord was working in her life, leading step by step. In July, 1903, she joined Albert Oetinger and his wife in making plans for establishing a home for children. There was much prayer, fasting and waiting upon God. Eventually a house was rented and the work started October 1, 1903.

"Mother" as Katharina Louise was called, taught the children to pray for daily needs. Everyone prayed and needs were wonderously supplied. The move from the city to the farm in 1908 was made possible in this fashion. Mother said that the Lord would give the money "if He has to pour it down from heaven." The money arrived shortly after.

When "Mother" led in prayer, everyone was inspired. God blessed her and made her a blessing to all. Prayer meetings were held in many neighbor's homes as a result of her ministry.

The work was blessed of God. The beaming face and cheering words of "Mother" brought joy to many. She served faithfully until March 5, 1930. Then the Lord said, "Come on high, my good and faithful servant." She was laid to rest on the hillside in the ground she loved.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all who have had a part in making this book possible. Many have contributed material, photographs, drawings. Others have reviewed the manuscript, correcting and verifying facts. We are sincerely grateful for all this assistance.

The Lord be praised for the testimonies from members of the Alumni Association, staff members of the Home, and workers; also from faithful friends.

Miss Ida Wehrheim, one of the earliest staff members, contributed much material in reference to the early history of the Home.

Finally, a dear brother and his wife gave much time in the editing and typing of the final manuscript, preparing the book for printing.

The gratuitous service of all these dear ones was truly a definite answer to our petition for assistance. Much prayer had ascended to the throne of grace for help to do these needed tasks. God met the challenge and marvelously answered in a way that we had never dreamed possible. Praise His name!

Matron and School Principal

Chapter I

IN THE BEGINNING

"Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16)

How Christ's Home Was Started

One bright sunny day in June, 1903, three trolley loads of underprivileged children were taken to Fairmount Park for a day's outing by Dr. Albert Oetinger, assisted by several sisters from the Mary Drexel Home.

Many of these children were newspaper boys, who lived along the waterfront in Philadelphia. A few had parents, but the majority had nothing—no home, and no one to love them. Many of these boys (and sometimes girls) slept in the empty packing boxes that had been used for ships cargo. Some of these boys belonged to clubs or gangs where they were taught to pick pickets and to steal. But even among these there were some who were to become trophies of God's grace.

Sunday Schools were started by Dr. Oetinger for the boys and girls who frequented this section of the city. Once a year he took all his classes on a picnic to the park. Here they spent the day in God's fresh air and sunshine, enjoying two good meals—all they could eat of nourishing and substantial food. To these children, this was a real red-letter day.

Dr. Oetinger had established a clinic in Chinatown for the poor and needy. He also saw the dire need of these many poor and neglected children, most of whom were orphans. He had for some time wanted to provide a home for this type of child. Being a man of God, he prayed much for guidance in this serious undertaking.

At the time of this particular picnic, the Sisters of the Mary Drexel Home had as their guest a Miss Katharina Krausslach. She had travelled extensively, visiting in many foreign countries. Seeing much of the needs of children in many lands she, too, had been praying that in someway she could do something for the neglected children of Philadelphia. At the time she was taking a kindergarten course at the Mary Drexel Institute to prepare for this work.

Group of the first children with Dr. Oetinger

Dr. Oetinger and Miss Krausslach met for the first time on the day of the picnic. They compared notes: How God was leading them both along the same channel of thought: Founding a home for neglected children.

They decided to pray jointly that God would lead and guide in this undertaking.

After much prayer and fasting, they felt the Lord wanted them to go forward in this wonderful ministry . . . trusting Him alone for guidance, funds, and staff.

Camping days with Mother, 1908-09

Living Bread

Many were the problems which faced these dear ones laboring in His vineyard at 981 N. Fifth Street. The clothing was often poor, but was always clean, and although the fare was meager, the glory of God seemed to permeate the premises. All rejoiced in His goodness. The Lord was so precious and His presence so real that the lack of material things often passed unnoticed.

"Mother" was a wonderful woman of faith! The promises of God were realities to her. Her beaming face, her winsome smile, and simple faith in her precious Lord were an inspiration and real blessing to all laboring with her. Even to those visiting the Home the presence of God was felt in those humble surroundings. She was a real mother to all children under her jurisdiction.

At first there was no milk, sugar nor butter, just dry bread and perhaps molasses, sometimes hominy without milk or sugar. As one child said, "Lord, you gave us the hominy, but you forgot to give us the milk and the sugar." One staff member remarked "I became robust even on this fare." Wondrously, however, the Lord answered prayer for this situation and gave the milk and the sugar as well as many other gifts of His provision.

Group of today's (1963) children with a housefather

Every morning, for example, for six months there were two loaves of fresh bread left on the front door step. No one ever found out who left them. To this day the benefactor is known only to God.

For many months ten quarts of milk was supplied by a milk dealer who, after a number of years, entered the work with his wife and family as staff members. This man was Brother Frederick Schwab, who was to become the second Superintendent of Christ's Home.

THE FIRST CHILDREN

In the newly-founded Christ's Home the first children admitted were two small girls. One was an orphan and the other, Margaret, was partially blind. Her mother hired her out to an organ grinder by the day, to beg for money. She lived until 1919, dying during the influenza epidemic, but a trophy of the grace of God. To one of the staff she said, "Do you see those golden stairs? I am going up there, but you can't come now." She soon passed into the presence of her Lord, whom she loved with all her heart.

The pioneer days were filled with severe trials and tests of faith. Many people had remarked: "Who had ever heard of a work in which the staff receive no remuneration for their labor of love?" No one was permitted to tell—even to closest friends—either personal needs or needs of the Home. God alone was to have this knowledge.

Through a definite answer to prayer, a dozen new beds for children were donated by a nearby Lutheran church. From the Mary Drexel Home came a number of quilts, made by the sisters. Another church gave blankets. Different pastors spoke to their congregations, thus interesting people in the project. In this way, dishes, clothing, furniture and food were received.

Through these many tests of faith, the staff was taught the truth of Isaiah 43:2.

> *"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."*

The original staff of Christ's Home

Staff Policy

It was understood by all who entered the work of Christ's Home as staff members, that they were to trust God to supply the needs of the Home, as well as their own personal needs. They were to lay "all on the altar"—themselves, their money, and their possessions! (Possessions were sold and the money was put into the general fund.) This was the procedure in the early days.

All put their shoulders to the wheel and pressed forward in the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Someone might say: Isn't that too much to expect? But these dear ones went still further and rededicated their lives and everything they possessed to the Lord for His service in Christ's Home. There was no grumbling in the hearts of these dear ones for the joy of the Lord filled their hearts to overflowing.

"HE GOETH BEFORE"

One day the larder was empty and the pantry shelves bare with the exception of a few dried beans and peas, a little rice and some barley. What were they to do? Again, they turned their hearts to their heavenly Father believing that "little is much when God is in it." One member of the staff stated that she had a nickel, which was sufficient to buy a marrow bone. (Remember this was some sixty years ago. A nickel had more value in those days.)

The marrow bone was put into the pot and cooked with the few dried beans, rice, barley and peas. With God's blessing, this pot of soup made a tasty meal for everyone.

Again a day came when there was not a thing in the house. The gypsy pot (a large black pot) was put on the stove, filled with water and a pinch of salt added. As Mother and the staff stood by the stove, prayer was offered unto God in behalf of the children. They reminded Him that He had given them these children to care for and it was up to Him to give them something to eat. The staff members were just His stewards to care for the children. They had no money and He would have to provide for His little ones.

It tugged at the heart strings to see little ones go to school, knowing there was no food in the house for dinner. They would naturally expect their dinner when they returned home.

After prayer, all praised God for answered prayer—even though they had not as yet received a thing. Suddenly the door bell rang and there stood a dear Christian brother, a farmer from Paulsboro, N. J., and a wagon filled with fresh vegetables from his farm.

He told how God had awakened him at 2 o'clock that morning and said, "Load your wagon with food and go to Christ's Home for they have nothing to eat." When Mother told him that there was no food in the house, he stood there, tears trickling down his cheeks, and said, "What if I had been disobedient and failed God?"

Many similar incidents have happened throughout the years.

Someone may say, "Does God really care for even the small details of life?" He most assuredly is interested in every detail of your life!

From this wonderful donation by the Paulsboro farmer there was sufficient food for several weeks. Is it any wonder that hearts thrill with praise and thanksgiving to God, our heavenly Father? Isaiah tells us,

> *"And it shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear."* Isa. 65:24.

Miracles were performed almost daily. Another time there was no food for supper. As usual, the Lord was entreated in behalf of the children. The need was acute. It was now 4 p.m. and God had not answered. Then there came a knock at the door and a group from St. Peter's Church, Fifth Street and Girard Avenue, stood outside with a number of large trays, containing delicious sandwiches and a large pot of potato salad. St. Peter's was to have had a picnic, but all-day rain cancelled the picnic and (just like our precious Lord) Christ's Home had the feast.

God's methods of answering prayer are unique. Praise His marvelous love and faithfulness in supplying daily food. Praise His adorable name!

Children from the city Home at camp in the country

THE LAVENDER LADIES

Still doing a wonderful work is a band of ladies who make little bags, fill them with lavender seeds, attach a Scripture card and distribute them to the sick in hospitals, prisons and other institutions. On one occasion twelve lavender ladies were ministering at the Holmesburg House of Correction. On the return trip they planned to stop at the Home for supper. They would stay for the Gospel service which Dr. Oetinger had each Sunday evening.

Unfortunately, there was not sufficient bread for the Home's own family, much less for twelve extra guests. What to do? God was sought in prayer for this special need.

Since it was Sunday, nothing was ever purchased on that day! The children and staff members were all in church, except the cook. What should enter the driveway but a bakery wagon. The driver delivered bread, rolls, cinnamon buns, Dutch cakes, doughnuts, and other goodies. This was the only time he stopped. As Dr. Oetinger returned thanks to his Heavenly Father he said, "Lord, we asked only for bread, but you have also given us cake, and that sufficient for two days."

> "God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform,
> He plants His feet upon the sea and rides upon the storm!"

It is not hard for God to turn the night of tests into the brightness of a glorious sunrise. The foregoing donation came through a friend of one of the staff, who had been angry with her for entering the Home. She could not understand how anyone could take care of "other people's dirty children."

It is easy for a mother to care for her own flesh and blood, but to love anybody's child takes more than mother's love. It must be "the love of God" constraining us. Otherwise one could not do it.

Many times prayer has been answered even through those who have bitterly opposed the testimony for Christ. This is the Lord's doings and it is marvelous in our eyes.

THE OPEN WINDOW

Even an open window can be used by our precious Lord. On this special day there was an urgent need for money. Rent was due but money was not at hand to fully pay it. Dr. Oetinger was seated at his desk in his

home at Fifth and George Streets, with the window lowered from the top. While there working, and praying, a roll of bills ($25) was thrown in through the open window and landed on his desk. He ran to the door, but could not see anyone. God had again provided for the rent, but in quite a different manner from what was anticipated.

Bath Towels

Someone once protested that God should not be bothered with small details; nevertheless Christ's Home presents every need before Him. One day bath towels were needed, and again on bended knees before the throne of grace, our heavenly Father was petitioned to supply these towels. A few days later a wagon from Strawbridge & Clothier stopped at the Home to deliver a large parcel. When asked if anything were due on the package, the reply was in the negative. Curiosity being aroused, the package was immediately opened to reveal two dozen lovely red-bordered towels, just the kind used for the children and just the right amount needed.

Dear ones, the days of miracles are not past. God still answers prayer in behalf of those who trust Him.

God vs. Impossibilities

We have a God who delights in impossibilities. Nothing is too hard for Him. He is still the same Jesus, who trod the shores of Galilee, healed the sick, and gave sight to the blind. Many hundreds, even thousands of definite answers to prayer could be cited, but space does not permit. Only remember God was, and is still, training the staff members in all these tests of faith. As someone has stated, "God gets His best soldiers out of the 'highlands of afflictions'."

There was another experience of faith worth relating. Dr. Oetinger had walked from Fifth Street to the University of Pennsylvania at 32nd Street. He had no money to ride home. He reminded the Lord that he was so weary he could hardly walk another step. The Lord replied, "Get on the next trolley that comes along." Dr. Oetinger remonstrated "but Lord I have no car fare." The Lord replied "Your car fare is paid." So he boarded the next car. As he entered the trolley, a man spoke to him, "Doctor your fare is paid." Again the Lord had made real His promise "Ask and it shall be given you."

ATMOSPHERE FOR A MIRACLE

The house at 983 N. Fifth Street (next door to the Home) became vacant, and was rented also. It was dedicated on October 1, 1905. The girls were placed in this house while the boys remained at the original Home, number 981.

Rent of $75 became due for this new house. There were no funds available, so resort was made to the secret closet. The request was made known unto God. Did He answer?

Dear Dr. Oetinger told the Lord in child-like faith of the need. The Lord spoke to him, and asked if he believed that He, the Lord, could supply this urgent need. Dr. Oetinger replied, "I do." "Then you write a check for the amount of $75.00 and mail it."

Dr. Oetinger did as he was told. Then there came a woman who said she wished to speak with Dr. Oetinger. "Doctor I have had no peace of mind for a night and a day. I could not sleep. The Lord kept telling me 'Christ's Home needs $75.00'."

She said that she told the Lord, "You know, Lord, I am a poor seamstress, I do not have the money."

The Lord replied, "What have you in your ears? Sell, and give the money to Christ's Home."

Later a friend, who had always admired her earrings, paid a visit. She had tried to purchase a similar pair of diamond earrings, without success, so she asked the seamstress, "Would you mind selling me yours?" She was asked what she was willing to pay. She answered that she could give $80. Immediately the earrings were removed and the exchange took place.

She brought the $80.00 to Dr. Oetinger.

As soon as she left, Dr. Oetinger hurried to the bank and found that the check had not yet been called. After depositing the money he heard his check number called. A close margin! Amazing, but absolutely true.

> "Difficulty is the very atmosphere of a miracle. It is a miracle in its first stage. If it is to be a great miracle, the condition is not difficulty, but impossibility."

Many more children were now knocking at the doors of the Home. Soon afterward there was given a house in Cheltenham for a few years. A temporary house was also given at 336 Lawrence Street, by Tanta Dora, Mother Krausslach's sister. These two houses were both closed after the Warminster dormitories were built.

Chapter II

THE MOVE TO THE COUNTRY

Praying for Fresh Air and Sunshine

Now came the time for a very important decision. Many of the children committed to the Home needed the fresh air and sunshine of the real country as well as good food and tender, loving care. Most of them were undernourished; some were filled with sores and vermin. Both Dr. Oetinger and Mother felt it was not good to keep these children in the city indefinitely, so they began praying for a place outside the city.

Commenting upon her treatment at the Home, one little girl said, "I never got so many baths and clean clothes as you give me. My mother would buy me a suit of underwear and sew it on, and I would wear it until it was worn out. Then she washed us in a basin."

This was the sad condition of many of the first children. On the other hand, some came from splendid homes, where parents had died or were too sick to care for their offspring.

One little girl, after receiving her first bath and fresh night clothing, removed her nightie. When spoken to about this, she replied, "I never wore one of them at night, I just sleep in my underwear." Furthermore, it was difficult for her to become accustomed to use her bed. She would say, "I never had a bed, I always sleep on the floor!"

Several girls when admitted had their hair so matted that a comb could not get through. After cutting away the hair, their heads were found to be alive with vermin, filled with lumps and large sores. These had to be treated so that healing could begin.

Two of the early children came from Chinatown. (Many of the first children came either from Chinatown or from the waterfront district.) For some time they had been living out of garbage cans in the alleys of the city. They slept wherever they could find a place. These children were filled with boils and abscesses; also they were not mentally alert. Actually, it required as long as five years to get the physical condition of some back to normal, malnutrition and disease had such a hold upon them.

To care for such underprivileged and needy children properly required a home away from the city. In the country, God's natural means would hasten their return to full health. It would help them to lead normal lives.

TWO HUNDRED DOWN

Prayer now became more earnest, as the staff became more desperate. The plight of these little ones plagued them. And, although many beautiful estates were inspected, too much money was needed.

Finally, the Lord led to the old Carrell homestead in Warminster. This was situated on Old York Road, a few miles north of Hatboro. The estate was for sale at $15,000 . . . but even this was formidable. However, after much prayer and many consultations, the owner offered to sell for $10,000! Furthermore, he graciously gave $500 as a personal gift.

Two hundred dollars was required for down payment to bind the bargain. (The sum required for the final settlement, was to be paid later.) Although the Home had no bank balance, two plots of ground were owned in Cheltenham. They were sold for $200.

Hearts rejoiced in God's goodness. A place in the country had been found and the first obligation was now met. God had answered prayer.

First building added at Warminster in 1908 (still standing)

Carriage house at Warminster property
In background is dormitory, built in 1913 and destroyed by fire in 1915

$2000 IN THIRTY DAYS!

Imagine the dismay of the staff when informed that the final settlement required $2000 in 30 days. Again the Lord's face was sought by fervent prayer and fasting. Have you ever prayed for something in agony and desperation? Then you can understand the experience of the staff at this crucial moment.

By the time the 30th day had dawned there was neither answer nor sign from the hand of the Lord. Dr. Oetinger was due to meet the lawyer at 2 p.m. Both Mother and the Doctor were sure that the Lord would answer. Mother said, "The Lord will provide that money, if He has to pour it down from heaven."

If you have ever trusted the Lord while waiting for His answer, then you have experienced the expectancy generated by faith, that has unwavering confidence in the promise of God.

One hour before settlement, a visiting lady was ushered into the Home. She spoke of having received some insurance money and said that she felt led to give it to Christ's Home as a memorial to her late husband. The amount was exactly $2000!

Doctor and the staff praised the Lord, singing for joy. Another miracle had been performed—God had again brought them through a crisis. He revealed that He was truly their Heavenly Father—His hand was not shortened, nor His ear deaf to their cry.

By divine blessing, the estate now belonged to the Home. Although there were three mortgages on the property, God met every one when due. Praise His name! A clinging hand of His child makes a desperate situation a delight to Him.

HISTORICAL AND HOLY GROUND

In looking through old records, some interesting facts were brought to notice by Ezra Carrell of Hatboro, Pa., concerning the Christ's Home property. At the age of 90, in December, 1947, Mr. Carrell obtained part of this information from a descendent of William Tennent.

"The present Christ's Home farm was purchased for and given to Mr. Tennent by a friend. When Tennent died, his sons sold the farm to James Carrell, great grandfather of the Carrell family that had lived in this community for over 200 years."

Another item mentioned that the Carrell estate was the scene of the greatest public gathering ever witnessed in the area, to celebrate the founding of historic "Log College, established by William Tennent. (This was the forerunner of Princeton University.) Literally thousands of interested persons thronged the old farm, attracted by the name of the main speaker, William Harrison, then President of the United States. "I remember him very distinctly," wrote Ezra Carrell. "He was a short, stocky, full-bearded gentleman; moreover a fine speaker. Incidently, Dr. John B. Carrell had a part in planning the program."

On another occasion a great evangelist of the 1800's, George Whitfield, of England, spoke to great crowds of people at open-air meetings on the grounds that later became Christ's Home! Truly these are grounds that have been hallowed by God's presence, blessed, and dedicated by those who have ministered in His name. Although for years not fulfilling its mission, the place was dedicated to the honor and glory of God, under the name "Christ's Home" October, 1907.

Christ's Home staff at Warminster, 1909

THE STAFF GROWS

Two new families became staff members as the work grew. The Lambrechts and the Wursts sold their homes in Philadelphia, placing the proceeds in the general fund. This was the policy of self-sacrifice set by the founders and those who followed in their steps, whose faith God honored. This kind of sacrifice is 'love in action.'

With these additional funds, a large 3-story frame building was erected in 1908. Housing the two new families, it also contained two dormitories for girls, a kitchen and dining hall, reception room and playroom, besides rooms for houseparents and other personnel.

To the original mansion, a third floor addition provided space for a boys' dormitory.

Both the new building and the addition were specific answers to prayer. Even the staff workers marvelled at the wonders of God.

> *"I will go before thee and make the crooked places straight. I will break in pieces the gates of brass and cut in sunder the bars of iron."* (Isaiah 45:2)

WORKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES

Remember that these beloved staff workers had no tools, no horses, nothing—just the bare ground. The barn was empty, and pocketbooks were empty. They had the buildings but no means of cultivating the soil.

Another step in faith was needed: To pray through for needed machinery and horses for the farm, a laundry and livestock. Cattle, pigs and chickens were needed.

It was not so much a question of whether God was able but did the staff have the faith required: Faith to trust the living God alone to supply all these important needs.

Many hard and difficult problems in those early days were solved by leaning solely on the everlasting arms. God is almighty. No one of the staff was able, but God was.

All sought the Lord in prayer: "Help, O Lord, increase thy faith in us."

The Lord answered, doing exceedingly more than one could ask or think. God began to move. Heavens that had seemed like brass, began to give way to prayerful faith, witnessing to God's blessing.

The First Livestock

From Mr. Le Fever came the first pigs, also the first chickens, two hens and a rooster. The first horse was given by a Mr. Haasis.

Great rivers have small beginnings. Tiny Lake Itasca, for example, is the source of the mighty Mississippi. Likewise, the little beginnings of the Home increased as the needs arose.

Brother Fred Thatcher and his partner donated horses for field work. The Schibley sisters, who later became staff members, gave a cow. Miss Elizabeth Andrews donated a second cow.

Today the Home has a herd of 60 head, including milking cows, heifers, and steer for eating beef. There are 130 pigs in today's piggery, including brood sows, young ones, and pigs of all ages up to butchering size. Five are butchered fortnightly, supplying chops, scrapple, sausage and pork for a full meal to all on the grounds, also lard for the bakery. Hundreds of chickens are found in today's hennery. Thus fresh eggs, milk and meat are in plentiful supply.

New Well and Water Tower

On this compound of houses, barn, and piggery there were only two wells, one at the barn and the other at the residences. This latter well was being used for the two buildings, to supply water for cooking and drinking, laundry, bathing and sanitation—for all staff members as well as the children.

Wherefore a major problem emerged—the need for an additional well.

A visiting friend asked Dr. Oetinger, "Where do you get your water?" Upon being shown the well and pump, the friend inquired about what would happen in the event of fire. Dr. Oetinger replied, "Even though all wells in the neighborhood have at some time or other gone dry, ours has never failed."

A few days later this same friend returned to give a greatly needed gift: An artesian well, together with a 50-ft. tower and tank holding 43,000 gallons of water!

> "Prayer is the link that connects us with God. This is the bridge that spans every gulf, and bears us over every abyss of danger or of need." (A. B. Simpson)

Looking in retrospect to God's marvelous leadings and guidance, it seems like a tale told, but having passed through these experiences they have become realities that God brought to pass because a band of born-again Christians dared to believe Him. This artesian well, by the way, is still functioning.

THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

In the early days at the Philadelphia location, where 75 were housed, the laundry work was all done by hand. At Warminster the staff ladies washed all clothing on the boards, while the ironing was done with flatirons, heated on coal stoves. Indeed this labor was not easy. However God strengthened the backs and the bodies, of these beloved ones.

As the Home grew and children multiplied, the laundry work became too taxing for housemothers. A central laundry was needed, where all the washing and ironing could be done in a more modern way. Another step forward in faith was called for. Thus it was decided to construct a building for housing not only a laundry but also school rooms, print shop, bakery and machine shop.

On the property was an old quarry. God used this to supply building materials for several structures. Now, the men of the Home (together with Jacob Kirchner) quarried stone, crushed it, and made cement blocks for the proposed new building. This meant much hard work, sweat, and prayer. God gave strength and guidance.

This project was completed in a little over two years, being dedicated to the glory of God in 1912. At the present time, it is known as the "Industrial Building." Here are housed the laundry, shoe repair shop, print shop, bakery, machine shop, receiving department for clothing, toy shop, barber shop, and several bedrooms for men.

Industrial building constructed 1912. Behind are tents used for Bible Conference and original one-room school. At right is the old, open tabernacle

Chapter III

GOD PROSPERS THE WORK

Development of the School, 1908-1923

In 1919 another definite answer to a long-continued prayer came through a friend who bequeathed $100,000 to the Home. After tax deductions the net legacy amounted to $90,000. This gift was like an oasis in the desert. Part was employed to construct an eight-room schoolhouse on the grounds at Warminster, so that all eight grades could be properly taught to the growing family of children. In 1923 the building was finished and dedicated to the glory of God.

Back in 1908, a one-room schoolhouse had been built. One teacher taught all eight grades until 1912. Then a second teacher (Miss Sellers) arrived and another school room was provided—on the second floor of the Industrial Building. Mrs. Hattie Miller, the original teacher, took the last three grades while the new teacher taught the first five grades.

The appearance of the new school demonstrated to an unbelieving world that the Lord is a living God. To Him belongs all praise, honor, and glory. Never forget that "delays are not necessarily refusals." Many a prayer is registered before God; however, noted on it are the words: "My time is not yet come." It took eleven years of praying before the eight-room school came into existence.

First school, built in 1908, had one room

Today's school, built in 1923, accommodates all eight grades in separate classrooms (rear view)

Home for the Aged

Not only were people knocking at the Home's doors to admit children, but time and again the appeal was made for older people.

After many prayers and supplications had been presented before the High Court of Heaven, the Lord laid it upon the hearts of the staff to open a new department for the aged. Thus it was, in 1920, that part of the $90,000 bequest was used for this purpose. The old St. Stephen's property of 115 acres in Warminster, half a mile from the children's home, was purchased. Opened in 1923, it has proved to be a shelter in time of extreme need and a real blessing. It has been, and is, a retreat for many saints of God, unable to find admittance into any other institution. Many retired Christian workers have found here a haven of rest in a beautiful atmosphere.

Of course, some who enter this shelter for the elderly have never experienced the grace of God in their lives. As a general rule they are found of Him and experience salvation before the evening of life wanes and they are ushered into the presence of the Almighty.

Today (1963) there are over 70 older folks throughout the various departments of the Home, including a few retired staff members.

Since its inception in 1923, several additions have been made to the original home for the aged. The last section was added in 1955. This provides private rooms for all guests in an atmosphere of beauty and tranquility.

No one except our heavenly Father could supply the funds for opening the Home to His hoary haired saints. He did it through instruments of His own choosing. In one instance through the legacy of His chosen one. In another case through Mrs. Dunlap of Hatboro, who was instrumental in having an addition made to the original property. Praise God for leading His servants to thus glorify Him.

Old Folks Home as it appears today
Original building (1923) is at far right

Some of the guests at the Old Folks Home, together with the superintendent and his wife (1960)

FIRE LEVELS THE NEW DORMITORY

For housing the younger children, a new dormitory was constructed on the Warminster grounds in 1913. Two years were required to complete the project. Then, in 1915, the building was destroyed by fire. Fortunately, no lives were lost. Notwithstanding, it was a terrible blow to the staff.

Through blinding tears, heads and hearts were bowed before God. His sovereignty was acknowledged. He never makes a mistake. Why He permitted this to happen no one knows; however, one day when standing before Him, the hidden things of life will be revealed, and everything will be made plain.

One should add that on this site there has since arisen the school—given also by God.

Up to this time (1915) the only assembly room or church building was an open tabernacle, suitable only for summertime use. During the remainder of the year, services were held in the girls' dining room. On the night before the disastrous dormitory fire, the last doors were hung on the open tabernacle, completing the job of converting it into a closed assembly area for year-round services.

On the morning after the fire this newly converted tabernacle was quickly divided into two dormitories, one for boys, the other for girls. It was occupied for four years until, by the grace of the Lord, the men of the Home finished two new dormitories. They quarried the stone and did the job themselves, assisted only by a bequest to help defray expenses for one of the buildings. Finally, in 1919, the two dormitories were dedicated.

Sewage Disposal Plant

Before the disposal plant was built, cesspool after cesspool had been dug with the same final result—so long so good—then an overflow and trouble. Again and again the souls of the staff were vexed with this unpleasant condition. Counsel was sought from our heavenly Father for wisdom and guidance, for the staff was at "wits end corner."

George Muller once said, "More prayer, more exercise of faith, more patient waiting, and the result will be blessing, abundant blessing." This was found to be absolutely true!

With Father's smile of approval, the Sewage Disposal Plant came into existence. Of that $90,000 legacy, sufficient remained (after building the school and acquiring a property for the Old Folks Home) to make the disposal system a reality. The days of emptying cesspools were over and everyone rejoiced in this wonderful reply to petitions.

Prosperity Proves More Difficult than Poverty!

God does not let His children get slack in prayer. This was the lesson taught after dependence upon the $90,000 bequest. When it was gone, there came an acute awareness of the tremendous lack of prayer that had developed. There had come an easing of, and a carelessness about, prayer life. Truly, prosperity was found harder to combat than poverty.

The time came when the bank balance was down to two cents. Consequently, the monthly bills for lighting, telephone, etc., could not be met. What would you do?

Urgent prayer was made. Knees had to become calloused again, as intercession began before the Almighty; Confession of sins, of carelessness, ease, and half-heartedness; and prayer that God would open the windows of heaven.

The first response to these petitions came from a poor widow, a wash woman, who sent ten cents. Almost ashamed to send so little, she revealed that it was all that she had.

As Dr. Oetinger read her letter he fell on his knees, weeping and thanking God for this sacrificial gift. Heaven broke, and from that time money began to flow again, until there was sufficient to meet all monthly obligations.

Truly "little is much, when God is in it." The blessing of that widow's mite reached the high heights of heaven to unlock the doors so that blessings could be poured forth. God's ways can never be fathomed by mortal man. In ten thousand different ways and at ten thousand different times He can help us.

HOW THE LORD LEADS ONWARD

Buildings have been added as the need arose. For example, the older boys' house, which originally had been the owner's mansion (with a third floor addition), was used from 1908 to 1945, until it had outgrown its usefulness. As the staff faced this problem, knees were bent and hearts were opened before God, pleading for the wherewithal.

Truly He is the God of boundless resources. He is infinitely able to meet the most urgent need. God gave the funds to make possible construction of a modern dormitory, housing 21 boys with their houseparents. It was dedicated in 1947.

Incidently, five years before, Brother Robert Kircher (third superintendent of the Home) planted a tree, by faith, in the middle of what was then a dump, on the basis of a promise from the Lord that he should prepare for the new building. Now, this tree stands directly in the entrance walk of that dormitory as a monument to the faithfulness of God and the faith of His believing servant.

In 1950 a building was erected for 14 older girls with their houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kranz (fourth superintendent of the Home). Triumphantly, it can be repeated:

> *"Blessed is the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our Salvation."* (Ps. 68:19)

The ten youngest boys at the Home occupy the former home of Dr. Oetinger. He would be pleased to know that they are enjoying the homey atmosphere of his cottage, and that they have a "mommy" who loves and cares for them. Dr. Oetinger's cottage was dedicated for this purpose in 1951.

The newest building for younger boys was dedicated 1958. It houses those who were on the second floor of the very first building erected in 1908. There are accommodations for 14 boys together with their houseparents in this fine, commodious structure.

Built by the Lambrecht and Wurst families, that first building still houses 12 boys and their houseparents. At the present time (1963) plans have been laid for a new dormitory, which is being built and should be finished by year's end, to house 14 boys and houseparents. The Lord, praise His name, has already provided the funds for this purpose!

All together, at this time, there are 135 children of school age at Warminster, while 27 children of pre-school age reside in the home at Paradise.

Chapter IV

TOUR OF CHRIST'S HOME AT WARMINSTER

Administration Building

If one were to take a guided tour of the children's division at Warminster there would be many places of historic interest that would reveal the gradual growth of the Home. Beyond the chapel, at the main entrance off Old York Road, appears the administration building, completed in 1928. Included in it are the main office, reception and prayer room, boys dining hall and kitchen. Staff members occupy the second floor.

Someone once said that 'every temptation that comes is God's opportunity.' We were once tempted to believe that this building would never be. It was begun during a period when funds depreciated in value almost overnight and, in the midst of the project, all construction was stopped. Now was the time to show whether we meant business with God. Was our faith sufficient to move God for the needed funds. This was truly a time of severe testing. We clung to God's promise:

> *"My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus"* (Phil 4:19)

We are reminded of the words of J. R. Miller:

> "He can take a life crushed by pain or sorrow and make it into a harp whose music shall be all praise. He can lift earth's saddest failure up to heaven's glory."

As we stood upon God's promise, He began to work. A staff member, who entered the work at this time, gave $10,000, and this was used to complete the administration building.

Boys' and Girls' Houses

On the main road, adjacent to the administration building is the former home of Dr. Oetinger, which is now occupied by the primary (the youngest boys at the Warminster Home) together with their housemother. Next is a cottage which, until recently, was occupied by the present superintendent. After it comes the house for junior boys with their houseparents.

Continuing onward, across 6th Street, a two-story masonry school occupies the area. Here are taught all the children at Warminster. There are rooms for all eight grades. (In contrast, on the other side of the main road, there still stands the original one-room school, now used for storage.) Continuing across 7th Street, one comes to the house for junior and intermediate girls, one group on the first floor, the other on the second—together with house mothers. Behind lies the girl's kitchen and dining room with staff members on the second floor. Next on the main road is a modern dormitory for senior girls with their house parents.

Directly across the main road (on the north side), the Home's truck farmer lives with his family. In the direction back towards the main entrance (east) lies the baseball diamond. Across Third Street is a modern dormitory for senior boys and houseparents. Next is the original school, then garage, storage and receiving, and the industrial building.

Near York Road appears the old homestead of the original owner. Now it is occupied on the third floor by workers, on the second floor by the staff and, on the first floor by the Home's infirmary and nurse. In addition, there is also located here a central sewing facility, where staff and friends regularly gather to care for the boys' needs in this respect.

All the foregoing buildings, as well as others not mentioned, are depicted on the drawing appearing on the following pages.

Bird's Eye view of the buildings and grounds at Warminster

Junior girls with housemother

Intermediate girls with housemother

Newest addition to building housing junior and intermediate girls

Senior girls with housemother

Senior girls dormitory,
erected 1950

Primary boys with housemother

Group of junior boys with housemother and father

Another group of junior boys with houseparents

Intermediate boys with housemother and father

Senior boys with houseparents

Dr. Oetinger's cottage at Warminster. Now the home for primary boys (the youngest group)

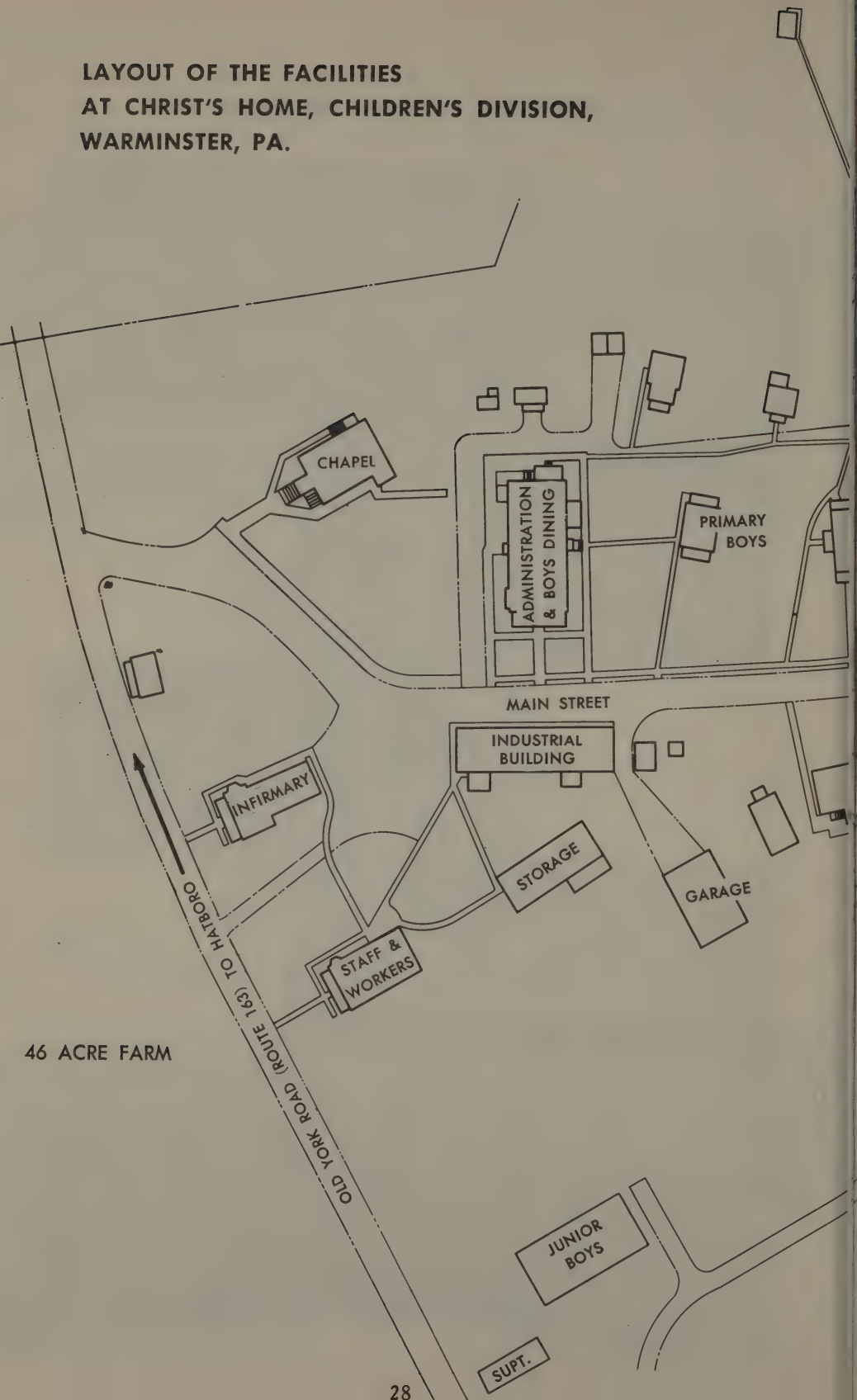
Senior boys dormitory, dedicated 1947. (at right, note tree planted in faith by Brother Kircher five years before.)

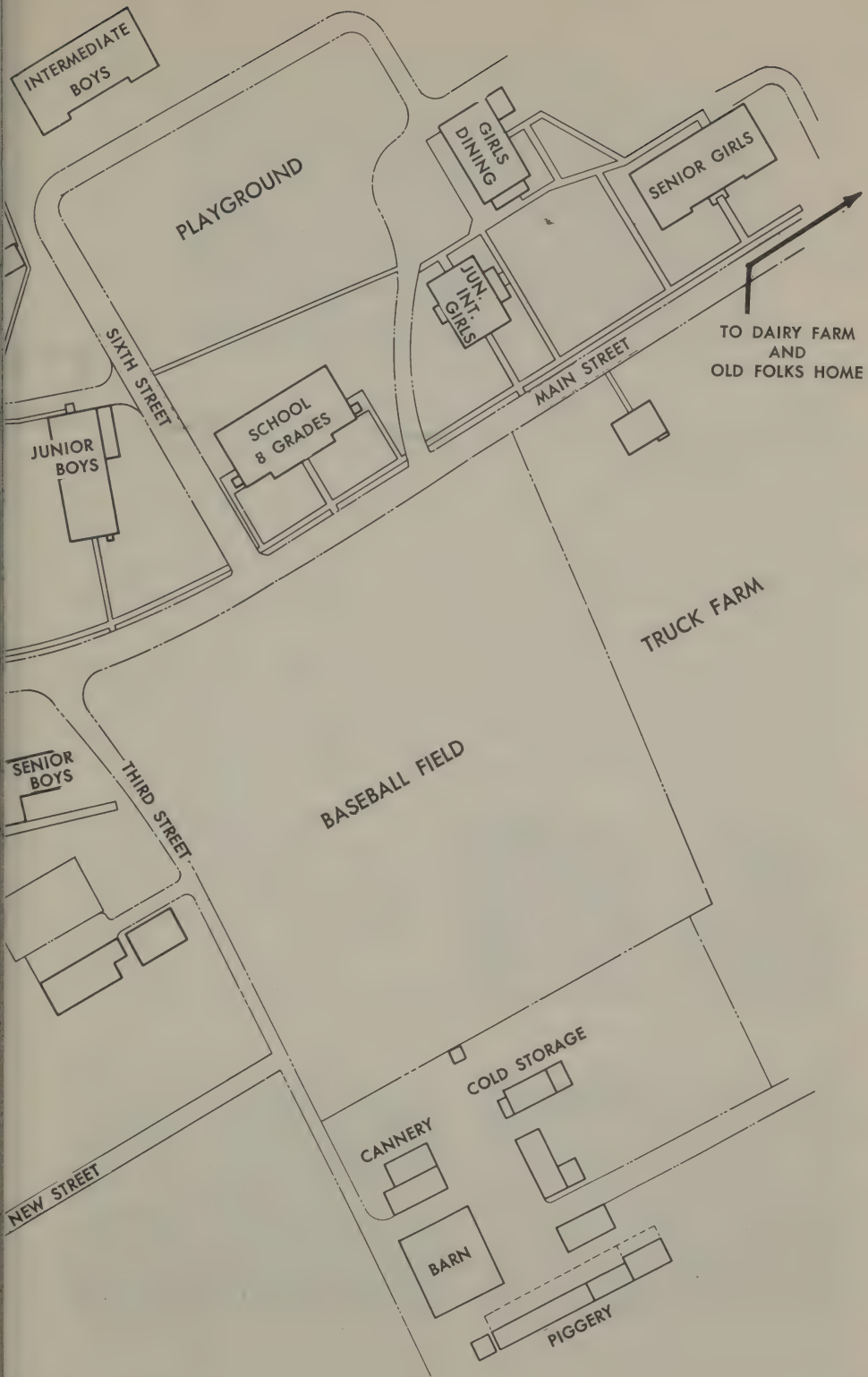
Home for one group of junior boys

New home for junior boys, scheduled for occupancy December, 1963

Modern dormitory for boys of intermediate years, finished 1958

LAYOUT OF THE FACILITIES
AT CHRIST'S HOME, CHILDREN'S DIVISION,
WARMINSTER, PA.




INTERMEDIATE BOYS
PLAYGROUND
GIRLS DINING
SENIOR GIRLS
JUN. INT. GIRLS
TO DAIRY FARM AND OLD FOLKS HOME
SIXTH STREET
MAIN STREET
SCHOOL 8 GRADES
JUNIOR BOYS
TRUCK FARM
SENIOR BOYS
THIRD STREET
BASEBALL FIELD
COLD STORAGE
CANNERY
NEW STREET
BARN
PIGGERY

Chapter V

GOD ENLARGES THE BORDERS

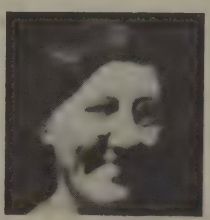
Paradise Home

In 1935 God moved a dear saint of His, Mr. C. F. Leader, formerly of Shamokin, Pa., to bestow his beautiful estate of 11 acres—including a mansion and several other buildings—to Christ's Home. This branch of the work was dedicated to God in 1936 for children of pre-school age. It is located on Route 30, some seven miles east of Lancaster, Pa., 65 miles southwest of Warminster.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of Paradise Home was celebrated November, 1961. Here are housed 27 boys and girls at the present time. Several staff members together with a few additional helpers carry on the activities. Moreover, the Lord has marvelously blessed Paradise, having raised up many loyal and faithful friends in the area.

Before all these blessings were poured forth, these dear ones on the grounds of Paradise had to pass through some of the same deep trials and testings of faith, as did the founders, in order to prove them. Someone once expressed the working of the Lord so sweetly: "It is not hard for the Lord to turn night into day." That makes the aftermath so much brighter.

Miss Pauline



Miss Rush

Miss Pauline Pflaumer was the first matron at Paradise, and Miss Charlotte Rush the second. Both have now finished the work God gave them to do and are now enjoying the reward of a life hid with Christ in God. (Col. 3:3)

Staff and children at Paradise division of Christ's Home near Lancaster, Pa. Preschool boys occupy this mansion

Home for pre-school girls at Paradise, Pa.

Staff at Paradise (1963)

THE CROOKED PLACES MADE STRAIGHT

An experience that occurred during the superintendency of Brother Schwab (1934-1948) will suffice to relate the way God works.. At the time the Home needed $500 for current expenses and there were no funds available.

Although much prayer was made for many days, on this occasion, the heavens seemed like flint. God appeared deaf, utterly unmoved, despite the earnest pleadings. One morning, however, the staff was certain that He would answer on that day. But, when the mail was opened Brother Schwab (second superintendent of the Home) was disappointed. "We are sore perplexed," he said to the Lord, "We surely thought you would answer our cry this morning."

The Lord replied, "Why not open the letter you set aside, thinking it contained another bill?"

When Brother Schwab obeyed, five new one-hundred-dollar notes lay before him, with this message attached: "Since God has blessed me, I am passing some of my blessings on to you!"

No name was signed. The giver was never known. Again our faithful Lord was on time!

Thus another urgent need was supplied, for the end of the month was at hand, and this exactly met current expenses for lighting, fuel, gasoline, and other monthly requirements.

Picnic time at Paradise is fun time for the kiddies

Brother Robert Kircher with Paradise boys now grown to manhood

SWIMMING POOLS FROM HEAVEN

When the contract had been let to build the swimming pools at Warminster in 1950, funds from a certain estate were due. Just as the contractor was about to begin, word was received that the money would not be forthcoming until a later date. There was just time to call and cancel the contract. Notwithstanding, the contractor went ahead, saying, "I know Christ's Home will pay!"

To the surprise of everyone, on the day the pools were finished a check came from an altogether different estate that had not been heard from for 15 years! More than enough was received to pay for the pools. Hearts again sang the praises of a wonder-working Lord.

The swimming pools are modern in every respect. One is for the younger children, the other for the older (and adults). A filter and heating system keep the water clean and comfortably warm. There are life guards on duty when children use the pools. Much money has been spent to bring them up to the required State standards. For all these wonderful innovations, the Home thanks God as well as those who supplied funds to make it all possible.

The pools are continuously occupied during the summer by the various groups of children and the staff. From the depth of one's heart there ascends praise to God for this wonderful recreation and healthful exercise for the big family at Christ's Home.

There are two pools at Warminster; one for the younger and one for the older children

The chapel at Christ's Home was the gift of a friend in 1947

The Chapel

At the main entrance to Christ's Home, off Old York Road, there stands a beautiful, majestic church building. For many years, there had been felt a need for larger quarters for worship services and meetings. In keeping with Home policy, the staff was reminded: "There is nothing too hard for thee, O God." Finally, faith became sight in 1947 as a result of a bequest from a dear sister, Miss Betty Andrews, who gave the funds for this specific purpose.

Many of the friends of the Home generously responded to add the necessary furnishings that make the building a real place of worship. Pews, for example, were presented by a Hatfield family, the Hecklers. Hymnals were given in loving memory of Miss Barbara Lantz (late treasurer and staff member) by her nieces. The pulpit was designed and constructed by a Willow Grove friend, Mr. Goetner.

Five large pulpit chairs gracing the platform were presented by kind friends in loving memory of the four superintendents and first matron: Dr. Oetinger, Brother Schwab, Brother Kircher, Brother Kranz, and Mother Krausslach.

Bibles were donated in memory of staff member LeRoy Brown. Carpeting was given in loving memory of Mrs. Rudolph by her daughter, Cora. An excellent pipe organ, the gift of an alumnus, Peter Slatner, was a token of love in appreciation of all that was done for him.

It is marvelous how God so wondrously led His saints to supply the church, the building as well as its furnishings. Such is the loving heavenly Father's way, through the medium of many generous, loyal-hearted friends. Praise God for those who have been His instruments to answer the Home's prayers. "May the Lord richly bless and reward them a hundred fold."

THE FARMS

In His loving favor and kindness, God has given Christ's Home five farms, acquired at different times. The first, and original farm, purchased in 1907, constitutes the children's division. The second, bought in 1909, is used for dairy purposes. It was purchased by Dr. Oetinger himself, using funds received from the sale of his pharmacy and home in Philadelphia.

The third farm, situated on Street Road (the old St. Stephens property) was purchased in 1920. While this acreage is employed for farming, the buildings constitute the Home for the Aged.

The fourth farm, adjoining the dairy farm, is also situated on Street Road. It was acquired in 1943. This acreage is cultivated by the dairy farmer. Its barn is used for young livestock.

The fifth farm provides pasturage for steers, and is also used for raising feed for livestock. It was purchased in 1957. At the present time there are 370 acres of land together with more than 30 buildings at Warminster. All of this has been made possible by God through prayer.

A dairy farm provides wholesome food for the boys and girls

Farming, Preserving, Raising Livestock

There are about twenty-five acres under cultivation at the Home's truck farm. Here are raised many of the fresh vegetables consumed by the boys and girls. A full-time farmer is on the staff.

As the Lord increases the crops, many of the vegetables are either canned or frozen. Modern canning equipment as well as a fast-freezing unit and cold storage plant have been installed on the grounds. It is here that all the frozen meats and vegetables, together with extra supplies of bread, pies, and cakes can be preserved until required.

A piggery produces an output of five every two weeks. They are delivered to a slaughter house in Hatfield, where loyal friends process the meat. This kindness is deeply appreciated by Christ's Home. Another friend processes steers for the Home. They are raised for varying the diet of the growing children, supplying them with beef as well as pork products. Feed for both pigs and steers is grown by the Home on what was once the Schwarz farm.

Another very dear friend is giving two to three days weekly in the Home's butcher shop, preparing the meat cuts for the various kitchens. This wonderful and needy service is sincerely appreciated.

Husking corn preparatory to canning
Many Home grown products are either canned or frozen for future use

HOW GOD GAVE THE SCHWARZ FARM

It is interesting to note how God brought about the purchasing of the last farm (the fifth), the Schwarz property on the east side of York Road, directly across from the main entrance to the Home.

Mr. Freeman Schwarz had made a will in which there were bequests to his many friends; however, he had left no cash, only his 47 acre farm. This he bequeathed in an unusual manner. If the Home desired it, the farm could be purchased at the low price of $1000 per acre (the current market price was $4000 per acre). The will stated that the farm was to be sold in order to meet bequests to friends.

Christ's Home was given two years to reach its decision. This meant earnest prayer before the throne of grace because, although the acreage was desirable, the purchase price was not in hand. That meant prayer, and more prayer.

The big question was: "Does God want the Home to have this additional farm?" If He did, then He would have to provide the funds!

For more than a year supplications were centered upon this project. Finally, a legacy of $50,000 was received—more than enough to acquire the 47-acre farm. The staff had prayed definitely that if it were God's will for the Home to have this farm then He would have to supply the money—and He did! Praise Him!

It is marvelous how God challenges human faith and then so sweetly meets the need, for His trusting children. Praise His name, for fervent prayer will be rewarded. The Lord knows how to renew "one's devotion to Him, who on the cross bore the sins of mankind as the great lamb of God."

Transportation before the age of automobiles

Acquiring the Warner Property

In October, 1962, the Warner home together with a few acres of ground, adjoining the Warminster land on the north, was purchased. It had been the Fitzmaurice home for many years and had been offered to the Home but the money was not in hand at the time. Seemingly, faith did not reach out . . . It may have been the lack of consecrated prayer.

Thanks be unto God, through His grace and mercy the Home has now become the owner of this property also. The old house is of Revolutionary fame—another part of the William Tennent property, where he personally lived.

For some time prayer had been made in behalf of the Superintendent for a new dwelling, since his home was beyond repair. Through the funds given to purchase the Warner property and to renovate the historic dwelling, it has been made possible to provide a better home for the leader and his family. This work is now completed, for which the Lord be praised.

We stand amazed in the presence of the Almighty as He works. A new dormitory for the youngest boys is being built on this Warner ground. The Lord has graciously provided the funds for this building—praise and adore His matchless name. This new dormitory is to replace the old one, built in 1908.

"He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered." (Ps. 111:4)

Transportation today (1963)

Chapter VI

THE CHILDREN

Yesterday and Today

One of the first boys, who was found in an ash can as a tiny baby, was placed upon the doorstep of Christ's Home. It became the only home that he ever knew. No relatives were ever found.

Another boy was found by police wandering the streets. For many years, he searched for relatives. Upon finding them, however, he found no satisfaction in them, for they knew not his Lord.

Today, the intake of children is somewhat different than in the beginning of the work in 1903. Various causes bring children to the door of the Home but they do not normally come from the Philadelphia waterfront nor are they found on the streets. Instead they are brought by some relative or friend who has heard of the Home. Perhaps they may be recommended or committed by a public official.

Some of the children admitted today are alone in the world, some have one living relative, others have no fathers. Many are from broken homes. All are usually in some stage of neglect and, at times, there are serious cases. In general, they suffer from malnutrition, decayed teeth, and similar signs of lack of care.

There comes to mind a recent case involving two girls ages 9 and 11. With hair nicely curled and nails brightly decorated, their outward appearance seemed satisfactory. What a surprise to find their hair so terribly matted that a comb would not go through. Naturally there was only one remedy. Cutting the hair short revealed open sores on the scalp, caused by vermin. In addition, these children suffered from malnutrition. Moreover, it took several years before the blood count of one became normal.

Even though fathers and mothers may forsake their off-spring our heavenly Father loves them, and will love them to the end.

In the matter of medical attention, Abington hospital and clinic have done an excellent job in ministering to these neglected ones at Warminster. In Paradise, an osteopath and a medical doctor from Lancaster County give of their valuable time to attend to the needs of the smaller children. Christ's Home is deeply grateful for these precious friends who have been so good to the children.

The final disposition of the children varies greatly. Whenever parents are physically or financially able, or when they remarry, they frequently request possession of the children in order to reestablish their own home. However, in many cases, children remain with the Home until they finish high school. A few seek jobs immediately after graduating from grammar school. In either event, the Home endeavors to supervise and to guide as they commence living their own lives outside its confines.

In 1962, eleven boys and girls from the Home attended William Tennent High School at Johnsville, Pa., a few miles distant. Of these, five were honor students, and two received the national honor pin. For the 1963 term, thirteen have attended and again, two have received awards from the National Honor Society.

In the Home's own school there are 120 on the rolls, from first through eighth grades. Six full-time and three part-time teachers are on the staff. In addition, there are instructors for such subjects as: Manual training, cooking, baking and sewing.

Boys and girls from the Home attending high school in 1963

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REUNIONS

Children are usually admitted to the Home between ages 3 and 12, but not over 12, and are usually discharged at 17 or 18, according to circumstances. Should there by no responsible relative willing to assume guardianship, the youngster stays until either schooling has been completed or a suitable position obtained.

The Home endeavors to inspire children to properly prepare for their future. Vocational training is stressed and opportunities for higher education are afforded for those qualified. If a youngster desires to secure an outside position rather than proceed with further education (after minimum requirements set by law are finished), the Home will assist in obtaining a satisfactory position as well as a suitable boarding house. However, the majority of today's children are entering upon and usually completing high school before seeking to enter the commercial world society.

Should the first job prove to be a mismatch, the youngster is free to return to the Home until one meeting his needs more adequately is found.

Parents frequently request return of their children as the circumstances which forced their giving up are removed, and they find themselves able again to care for their own. This, of course, is the more desirable end to be achieved. It is for this reason that the Home imposes no specific limits on the length of stay and, likewise, leans toward the policy of encouraging return to responsible parents—or a relative, who will assume all the responsibilities of a parent.

Since the Home exists only to serve those children whom no one else will have, it seeks to make their stay more like life in a real, parent-loving home, rather than life in an institution.

As a result, the annual reunions, when many of the former boys and girls return to renew old acquaintanceships, touch many a heart string. Now is begotten a closer fellowship between staff and alumni. Once children, they have become men and women; they have tasted of the hardships of life and shared in its real joys. Now there is real understanding and the bond of fellowship becomes stronger.

Hearts of staff members rejoice to witness the spiritual growth in many lives, as well as the pattern of spiritual training seen in the behaviour of their children. It is a vital tonic of encouragement and a challenge to continue the ministry of the Home.

TRAINING THE CHILDREN

At the present writing (1963) there are some 120 children enrolled in the Home's own school, receiving schooling and discipline under the guidance of consecrated teachers. They seek to instruct the boys and girls not only in the legally required curriculum, but also in the Word of God. Portions of the Bible are memorized by the children. Their teachers seek to lead them to know the Lord by a real and personal experience. To know Him as one's own Saviour and Redeemer, is the ultimate goal.

Songs of praise, Bible reading, and prayer begin the day in the school. The seventh and eighth grades pursue a course in Bible study, while the lower grades memorize portions of God's word. Our heavenly Father says:

"Them that honor Me, I will honor." (I Sam. 2:30b)

In so far as the secular curriculum is concerned, this is enriched in a practical way. For example, girls are instructed in the art of sewing from the first through the eighth grades. Seventh and eighth grades receive instruction in dressmaking; also in the culinary arts (cooking)—with a year of each, during these last two years.

Boys, in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades receive instruction in manual training. Seventh and eighth grade boys are taught commercial baking procedures. They produce pizza, pumpkin, peach and lemon pies; cream puffs and delicious cakes of all sorts; also biscuits and bread.

Special courses in art are conducted as well as classes in ceramics, shellwork, copper work on pins, and the decoration of used trays, etc. During the summers, DVBS classes are held for three weeks. Here the children are taught hymns of praise, memorize Bible verses, and take part in recitations. (Incidentally, the results of this extra-curricula activity are employed throughout the entire year, when invited to present programs at various area churches.) Crafts are taught, also paperwork.

Truly, the Lord of Hosts is with Christ's Home. He is the only one who has made these seemingly impossible things come to pass . . .

Seventh and eighth grade boys are taught commercial baking

RECREATION AND VACATION

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy—and Jill an equally dull girl.

Swimming, bicycling, skating are popular outdoor activities at the Home to help consume the energies of growing boys and girls. Hobbies range from photography and art to raising pets and indulging in music. Opportunities are afforded by kind friends and interested organizations that take the children on regular outings, dinners, and special parties. Indoor games and social times, at the various individual houses on the Warminster grounds, further stimulate and engage the mental and physical capabilities of these future citizens.

Through interested friends, especially the late Dr. Percy Crawford, the children for many years have enjoyed a two-week vacation at Pinebrook Camps in the Pocono Mountains. Indeed, the Home is exceedingly grateful to the Crawford family and all who help to make this happy and healthful experience possible. Thanks be unto God. May He bless each one who has lovingly remembered the children in this way.

During the summer of 1963 the teenage boys and several staff members, again enjoyed the hospitality of the Crawfords at Pinebrook for two weeks. The 6-to-11 year olds were sent to Camp Sandy Hill, conducted by Pastor George Palmer near North East, Maryland. All the girls enjoyed a two-week vacation at Camp Sankanac, near Spring City, Pa.

Baseball is a popular sport with the senior boys

BECOMING CONSECRATED MEN AND WOMEN

In all the various walks of life there are found those who have passed through the portals of Christ's Home. Of these thousands there are some in full time service for the Lord while others serve in the supporting capacities as children of God, holding forth their testimony among the children of the world, as they work side by side.

There are several ministers of the Gospel. Two are missionaries in Ecuador: One teaching in the academy, the other working among the Indians. Another is a lieutenant in the Salvation Army. Another is doing child evangelism work.

Of the girls, four are teachers, one is a school principal, eight are nurses (RN), a number are practical nurses.

Among the young men graduates of the Home are executives in business and industry, teachers, and many office workers. Several are graduates of Bible Schools and Seminary. One has served two years of probation and is now prepared for serving as a missionary in Borneo. Another is studying in California to become a medical missionary. In Spokane, Washington, one of the Home's young men is a Director of Youth for Christ.

A number are college graduates, since many these days go on to further education. They are to be found in the Library of Congress, and as members of the engineering, teaching, and medical professions.

Some make the military their career. Others seek careers in the arts, the sciences, business and industry.

The great bulk of the Home's large family are among the more useful citizens of the land. Mothers and fathers, they now have children of their own, most of them being raised in the same spiritual pattern set by the Home. They are housewives, mechanics, contractors, painters, bakers, truck and taxi drivers, and farmers. Solid, substantial citizens—many of whom have their own businesses—they contribute "as the salt of the earth" to the true spiritual welfare and progress of these United States.

It has been heart-warming to those who have worked with these boys and girls to see their lives transformed by the grace of God. This is a blessing and a joy that cannot be adequately expressed in words. Only eternity can reveal what Christ has meant to these lives.

Eight of the alumni are now staff members and workers at the Home (three are members of the Board of Trustees): There is the treasurer, a teacher in the school, a mechanic and a farmer. Three of the girls who graduated serve as staff members; the wives of the farmer and mechanic,

and a third who supervises the boy's dining room. The eighth alumnus is in charge of the large laundry operations at the Home.

As co-laborers with Christ let us always remember: "Lord, may no task ever be too lowly for me. Keep me mindful that in everything I am serving thee." If Christ is our all in all, then these lives entrusted to our care will one day bring honor and glory to His precious name.

> *"Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God."* (Isa. 62:3)

This we covet for each one.

ASSESSING SPIRITUAL VALUES

The question, how to value acts and thoughts, spiritually, brings a reminder of an incident that occurred in Dr. Oetinger's life. While still in the city of Philadelphia, a lady sent for someone to pick up wood for the Home's use. Since there were no other men in the Home at that time, Dr. Oetinger hired a horse and wagon to go for it himself. Upon removing the wood from the basement of the lady's house, Dr. Oetinger was given a broom and requested to sweep the pavement. Although something he had never done, even at his own house, he complied, smiling inwardly as he received ten cents for his work.

Years after, this same lady bequeathed $1000 to the Home. This was the reward for humility in action.

How many would have done what Dr. Oetinger did? It paid a dividend afterward, for these tests have spiritual values.

Another time a derelict from skid row accosted the doctor, asking for money. While he had only a quarter, Dr. Oetinger took the man to a lunch room. Here he paid for food for the unfortunate man. As he was leaving, two patrons asked about the Home and its work. Then before parting, each gave Dr. Oetinger ten dollars. Does it pay to obey God? Dr. Oetinger gave his last cent to help someone but God more than repaid him.

It is adherence to these principles, this emphasis upon the spiritual values, that keeps the Home a living, growing ministry . . .

Chapter VII

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF THE HOME

The Estimate of a Banker

The following letter written by an executive vice president of a nearby bank gives a graphic picture of the witness of the Home in the surrounding community.

"Here (at Christ's Home) are 30 splendid buildings, 370 well-kept, flourishing acres, 135 promising children 6 to 18 years, well-fed, well-clothed, healthy, clean as a whistle, and with radiant happiness beaming in their eyes. Here is a school superior to most, that gives sound and thorough education up to high school levels—plus development of individual talent in manual training, painting, ceramics, drawing, cooking, music, with excellent fundamental courses. Thousands of 'graduates' today are making good in a world where they might have been buried or criminal-bent 'dead-end kids.' But to many, here is the most amazing fact of the whole amazing undertaking:

"Since its start in 1903 with a capital of 55c there has never been any appeal for money, food, endowment, clothing or other material. There is no apparent source of income. No tax or charity funds support it. **No one,** ever, is asked for anything. In fact, one cannot find out what is wanted or needed. Furthermore, the Home has never been in debt. Requests are made known only to God, through prayer. They are met promptly, fully and adequately.

"Manna from heaven? Yes, but it's sent by rich and poor, men and women like you and me, who just happen to give the right things, in right amounts, at the right time—or does it 'just happen'?

"So you think the age of miracles is past? Back in Sunday School we learned of moving mountains; of changing water to wine; of the loaves and fishes, but that was 2000 years ago, perhaps 'only parables' at that. But . . .

"Miracles no less take place today, now, and under our very noses, here! I don't mean the marvels of science and invention, but demonstrated 'answer to prayer' pure and simple.

"Non-sectarian, there is no man-made religion but there's a great abundance of practical Christianity that penetrates and saturates the very warp and woof of every plan, every life, every activity."

Irvin T. Kepler,
Executive Vice President
Hatboro National Bank
March 1951

WITNESS OF A CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN

The results of a godly consecrated life dedicated to God's service are far reaching.

Dr. Albert Oetinger and Mr. T. Edward Ross (a member of the firm Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery, Auditors, Philadelphia, Pa.) as young men were friends. They held Sunday School classes for young boys in Philadelphia.

Mr. Ross moved to Ardmore, joined the First Presbyterian Church there, then became an elder and superintendent of the Sunday School.

The minister, Mr. Rawson and his parishioners became actively interested in Christ's Home through the influence of Mr. Ross. Through the years this interest of that church has continued to be a blessing to the present day.

A Mr. Pennepacker, principal of the Lower Merion Senior High School, who attended the same church also became interested in the children of Christ's Home, so much so, that he invited a group of the smaller children to be guests of the school at a Christmas party. This custom has continued for 35 years, and the children look forward to this delightful occasion.

These godly influences still spread. Mark God's way. One of the students at Lower Merion High School completed her course of study to become a teacher. She taught at Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove, arousing enthusiasm in her classes for the children of the Home. Now a number of boys and girls have been their yearly guests.

The tide still flows onward. A nephew of the late Mr. Pennepacker is now a teacher at the Peirce Business College of which Mr. Peirce III is the principal. Mr. Pennepacker has inspired the students and faculty to treat the children of Christ's Home for several years to a Christmas party.

The Lord worked quietly, but earnestly in the heart of dear Mr. Ross until in his late nineties. As one looks back in retrospect over 60 years, this man's zeal for God has kindled a living flame, spreading throughout the surrounding countryside in behalf of his Lord and in the interests of those less fortunate than himself.

Has it paid? It surely has, and dividends will be paid by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Master says,

> *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* (Matt. 25:40b)

News received recently announced the home-going of our dear friend, Mr. T. Edward Ross on Sunday, March 24, 1963. He had lived to the age of 95. A man full of grace and good works, and as one friend said "a prince of God."

A BAKER SPEAKS

The following are excerpts from another friend's letter of testimony:

"At the golf club a few friends and I were discussing Christ's Home, when we were spoken to by a young man passing by. He excused the interruption and said he had heard the name of Christ's Home mentioned and thought we might be interested to know that he had been brought up in the Home. He spoke most gratefully of the instruction and training he received. He is now a prosperous baker here in Philadelphia and was thankful for having worked in 'Christ's Home bakery' to learn his trade."

AN UNKOWN FRIEND TESTIFIES

"Twenty-three years ago (from the then present time July, 1926), Dr. Albert Oetinger, who then was engaged in the drug business, became impressed with the need of caring for children in Philadelphia who were outcasts and had no one to rescue them. Most of the homes were filled to capacity, and many children in slums and alleys were neglected. Dr. Oetinger therefore started a home in a small way in a suburb of Philadelphia. Children were taken regardless of sectarian distinction. The more neglected they were, the more in need, the more eligible they were for Dr. Oetinger's home. Dr. Oetinger said he started the institution with a bucket, a broom, a prayer and a Bible. Since then the Home has cared for hundreds of children of all ages, creeds and nationalities, taken from homes of neglect and misery, juvenile courts, houses of detention and children's aid societies. The army of workers and instructors give their time without money or compensation.

"The writer has visited the present home, which is situated on a farm of 250 acres at Warminster, Bucks Co., Pa., and which has every appliance for the right training of children. It is supported entirely by gifts which come without a word of solicitation to any human being, which means by constant and fervent prayer. It is the custom for all, including the children, to pray three times a day, at sunrise, noon and sunset, for the present needs, of which a list is made, and all they ask for is one day's supply; Dr. Oetinger does not believe in hoarding supplies. The writer on visiting the home inquired of the matron if they had ever been obliged to go without a meal because of delayed answer to prayer. She smiled, and exclaimed emphatically, 'Never!'

"The buildings that are used for conducting this home are many and substantial, one of them costing as much as $50,000.

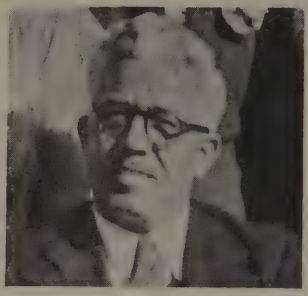
"In addition to the buildings used for the children, there is now a Home for the Aged, where old people of any denomination are tenderly cared for; there is also a Missionary Rest Home where missionaries requiring rest are gladly received. The only support of all this is through prayer.

"A monthly bulletin is issued called 'GOD'S DEALING,' in which all donations are recorded, little histories are given of the happenings in the home, and interesting letters from missionaries are printed.

"Thus we see how large and useful is this enterprise of faith, of which fuller details are not given, because anyone living near Philadelphia may easily visit it any day and see for themselves what can be done by believing in the promises of God."

Dr. Oetinger with group of alumni (about 1930)

Mr. Schwab, Second Supt. succeeded Dr. Oetinger (1934)

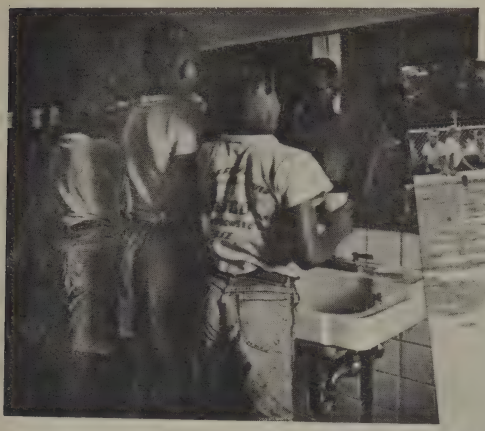


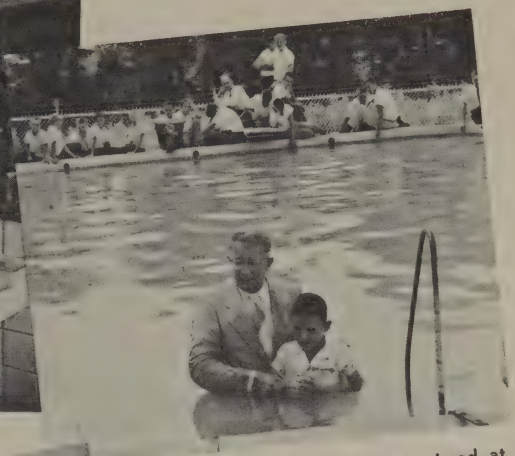
Mr. Kircher, Third Supt. (1940)

Mr. Kranz, Fourth Supt. (1953)

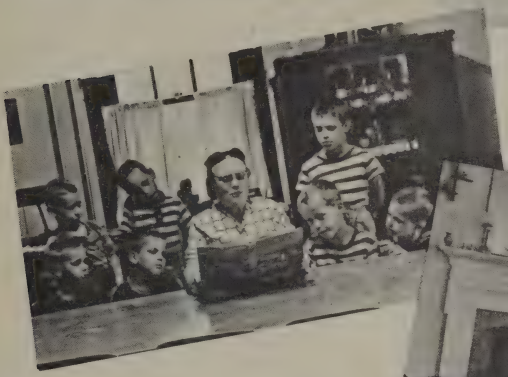
Mr. Isbell, Supt. (1958)

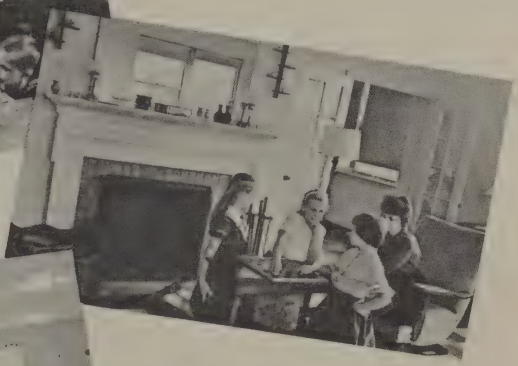
Alumni ladies at banquet in Christ's Home (about 1960)

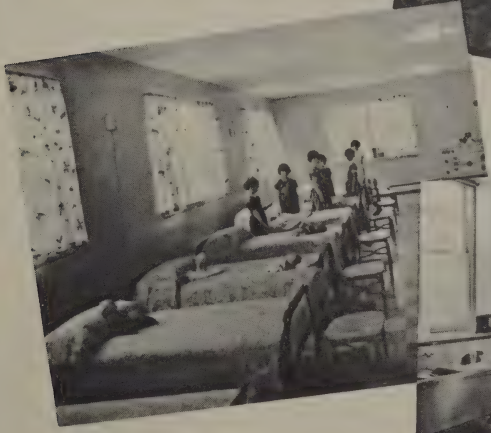




All the prayer and guidance is aimed at leading children to make the right decisions. Yearly the swimming pool becomes the place of consecration







Work and play are intermingled to train and to teach so that the children become good citizens of the land

Chapter VIII

REAPING THE HARVEST

The following are testimonials from the Alumni, comprising excerpts and letters from a few of the former boys and girls:

Testimony of a Housewife

We live in a small community called New Smyrna Beach about 50 miles north of the "Cape" and 24 miles south of Daytona Beach, Florida. It is a lovely town and the people are all very friendly and nice. We joined the Presbyterian Church and the children and I were all baptised about two weeks ago.

Clark is in the Cub Scouts. Patty is a Brownie and Scott started to kindergarten this fall. Gregg is running around now and "boy" what a live wire! But he is healthy. Thank God for this.

As you know I never knew my mother, and have never had anyone to turn to. It has meant a lot to me to have your friendship all these years. You are the only person in the world whom I can really call my true friend. To one who has never really had a home, mother and family of my own, until now, this means an awful lot. I want to say thank you for taking an interest in me when you did. Please continue to pray for us. At times, just the thought keeps me going.

Please give my love to everyone. I wish I could be there with you all. Please write when you can spare a minute. I would love to hear from you. Sincerely and with love,

Edith Goldsborough Morrow (Mrs. Bud Morrow)
818—12th Ave.
New Smyrna Beach, Florida

Given Chance to Learn My Trade

I am proud to be an Alumnus of Christ's Home and I am forever grateful to the wonderful workers who made Christ's Home possible.

At Christ's Home I was given the chance to learn my trade, and I now have my own bakery in Philadelphia.

I feel as long as we have such wonderful people, who are willing to give their lives to this work, there will always be a Christ's Home.

Earl Webb
3258 N. Front St.
Philadelphia 40, Pa.

Missile from a Military Man

Please forgive me for not writing sooner. Many things have happened since I last saw you. It has been one year since I entered the Army. I took my basic training here at Ft. Jackson. Upon completing basic I went to the United States Naval School of Music in Washington, D. C. I spent six months studying music, military band formations, etc.

After completing my course, I had a final audition, which I passed. I was then sent back to Ft. Jackson and the Military Band here Soon after arriving I entered Columbia College. There I met a wonderful girl (who is originally from New York City). I plan to marry her on December 15, 1962.

So you see I have been quite busy. I enjoy being in the Ft. Jackson Band. I am learning much about music.

I would be pleased if you write and tell me about what is happening at Christ's Home. Perhaps you could send me some of the recent literature.

I have many fond memories of the days when I was in the Home. I never regret any of it.

If the teachings there taught me anything it taught me character, which I think, is the basis for an individual to go through life today as it is. For this I thank you at the Home.

Well, hoping to hear from you soon, I will close.

Alfred Wills
Band Detachment
Ft. Jackson, S. C.

Letter from a Future Missionary

As this new year starts I recall with thankfulness God's many blessings, due to His grace and mercy alone. Praise Him!

Early in life I felt God's call to missionary service. Ever after the Lord has been faithful to guide and supply my needs. After I was graduated from Prairie Bible Institute in 1960, I did rural Sunday school work with the American Sunday School Union in Montana. Praise God for lessons learned and things that were accomplished.

Now I'm in the Regions Beyond Missionary Union preparing to go to Borneo, Indonesia, trusting the Lord to open the way in His time.

I spent about five of my younger years at Christ's Home and I praise the Lord for the training I received there, especially in such things as Bible memorization and how to work. The staff members have been examples to me in their dedication to the Lord's service. More recently I've come to value these lessons, as well as all they've done for me, even more highly.

Mark Sirag
1401—6th Ave., W.
Kalispell, Montana

ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO DEDICATED WORKERS

When I was 7 years old, I was orphaned and was put into one private home after another. Then my sister heard of Christ's Home and decided this was a better place for me to be raised. I feel that this was a wise decision, and I'll be eternally grateful. That is the reason that when I hear or read about those in authority stating that foster homes are better than institutions, I get angry.

Christ's Home is a place where one can be sure that children are raised in the right environment by God-fearing people—with all the advantages of children in good middle class homes, with the security that comes from living in one place which is clean and loving.

These dedicated workers who are in charge of Christ's Home don't feel as if their job is finished when a boy or girl leaves. They are always interested in the health, happiness and well being of the boys and girls who leave. Just as a child is welcomed into the parents' home (when he or she has left), so are these boys and girls. In the same manner they can come home if they need help or are in trouble.

So as you see, these workers of Christ's Home don't work for material gains, but rather a labor of love—love of God and their fellow humans.

This is the reason I shall be eternally grateful for being raised in Christ's Home.

Ann Gerhard Denning
207 Pershing Ave.
Horsham, Pa.

TRULY THANKFUL FOR RELIGIOUS, MORAL, AND CULTURAL TRAINING

At this time of the year when we all give thanks to God for all His bountiful blessings, my thoughts return to dwell on the years I spent at Christ's Home.

I am truly thankful to our Lord, for the religious, moral and cultural training I received from loving hands.

As I have journeyed through life, I realize how much the training at the Home has done to develop the character of those who were raised there. The importance of placing value where it belongs, on the things that are Godly, moral and decent.

I have marvelled how the workers of Christ's Home labor, not for earthly gain, or monetary consideration, but for the Home and the Glory of God.

Yes, the Home has done much for God and country, by starting so many boys and girls on the straight and narrow path to become conscientious and responsible citizens of our great country.

For these things I am truly grateful and especially for the knowledge that has established my faith in Christ our Lord.

With love to all,

William Frame
440 N. Main Street
Telford, Pa.

Christ is the Motivating Force

Since my departure from Christ's Home in 1950, I have taken advantage of many opportunities to tell of the wonderful work of Christ's Home.

The story of the Home is such a wonderful testimony to the work of God that it seems incredible to many people. Indeed to tell it can be in some sense a frustrating experience for me because it absorbs my attention to such a degree that I find it difficult not to monopolize the conversation or to find time at any specific instance to break away from it.

Social scientists, psychologists and other students of human behavior place great emphasis upon the social environment of an individual and the effect it has upon the shaping of his personality. If there can be a criticism of their evaluation, it would certainly result from their lack of emphasis on the role that God plays in the life of the individual.

Christ's Home is unique and has been so successful primarily because Christ is the motivating force of its way of life and the foundation upon which its whole structure is built.

As I face the many problems of everyday life, and attempt to discharge my responsibilities as a parent and a Christian, I am constantly reminded of God's wonderful gift to me in providing me with such excellent training so early in life. The degree of success and happiness which I presently enjoy is a direct result of this training.

May God continue to bless the work of Christ's Home.

Charles D. Stills
7818 Elm Ave.
Wyndmoor 18, Pa.

Using Christ's Home as an Example

Christ's Home is a great inspiration to me. I am not a child of the Home but consider it my second home.

When I reached the age that I could understand God's great love, and hearing the many miraculous answers to prayer that the Home has experienced, it made me want to know and learn more about our Lord and Saviour.

I have accepted Jesus as my own personal Saviour and have many opportunities to witness for Him in my daily life. Through using Christ's Home as an example, I have been able to talk to many.

Please remember me in your prayers. I know that you at the Home must pray constantly for Jesus has never failed you. (II Tim. 2:15)

Marie Windle
(Daughter of Wm. and Hannah Windle)

FIRM BUT KIND DISCIPLINE

It was wonderful to see and talk with you again, if only for a little while. I would, of course, have preferred to stay much longer, but I wanted to visit with Pat who, as I told you, is in the hospital.

Unfortunately, for me, I live so far away that I cannot visit with you as often as I might like. And my travels seldom take me in a northerly direction any more. However, I often think of the Home and, every now and then, pause to ponder how fortunate I have been as a result of my sojourn there.

It has been nearly twenty years since I departed its confines to make my way in this world. And, much has happened to me. As you know, after the war I returned to finish my secondary schooling and then went on to acquire a college education with a B.S. degree in Public Relations from the University of Maryland. More recently I was married and acquired a new house. In addition to which I have been with the Library of Congress during the past ten years. It hasn't all been easy, but I do feel that life, for the most part, has been extremely kind to me.

However, I often have wondered what might have happened to me had I never known a place such as Christ's Home. For my part there is really little need to speculate. Unlike most of the Home's children I had been in other orphanages and so know that the Home is most unique. And, generally speaking, any youngster can consider himself fortunate to be there and not somewhere else.

I suppose, as youngsters, we have all felt a certain amount of hostility towards adults. And yet, I know that most of the workers cared about each of us by the interest and the firm, but kind discipline which they displayed. It is a very difficult feat to give many children equally all the love and attention that is required. Perhaps the Home did not fully succeed in this, but I have always believed that it came as close as is humanly possible under the circumstances. Certainly there are none, or few other institutions whose workers are there because they basically love and desire to serve children—and for no other consideration. It takes great character to give up the life one might have had for one such as that required by the Home.

Of a more personal nature is the training I received. I am not a very religious person, but I would be the first to admit that the moral and ethical code, by which I live, is that which was instilled in me by the Home. There has never been for me a question of what is right or wrong, nor what is the right thing to do in any given situation.

Of almost equal importance was the stress certain individuals placed on the importance of education. (There were, unfortunately, few who troubled themselves in this respect and, consequently, few who furthered their schooling beyond the eigth grade who might otherwise have done so.) In my own case I knew I was being very foolish by quitting high school. We know why I did; the less said about it, the better. Nevertheless, I did return when the opportunity presented itself and I am sure that this decision was predicated largely through your influence and others with similar views.

I do know (through God's Dealing) that a larger number of the children today go on to complete their secondary education and that a surprising

number go on to institutions of higher learning, and that the children are being given the encouragement they need to go on. To me this is most gratifying. It is not enough to have a strong body and a set of rules by which to live; the individual needs a strong mind as well. And the more education one has, the further one can advance in today's world. In addition, it helps to make the complete individual, as well as to make one's life richer and fuller. Education is, in fact, imperative.

As I look back over the years I feel a warm glow and a bit of nostalgia. There were unhappy incidents to be sure, some of which are not forgotten. But growing up in the country was as fortunate a thing as could have happened to me. I don't know what it is like today, nor what today's children do with themselves. I do know my group had its tears and its laughter and I cannot remember a single dull moment. We did not have TV then, but we had imagination and the outdoors offered ample opportunity for the exercise thereof.

I remember too that, at the ripe old age of seventeen, I couldn't get away from the Home soon enough. And I suspect that has been true of every one who has ever been there. The interesting thing to me has always been the fact that no sooner has a youngster graduated to the great outside world, than he hurries back to visit at the Home; to share his latest news and/or good fortune; later to show off the new spouse; later to show off the new baby; still later to proudly display the growing family; yes, and even later to show off the grandchildren; and always to keep in touch with both the Home and with others who have been there and gone. I conclude, from this, that the Home has meant more to each of us than a good many of us have ever cared to admit. I know it has to me.

God bless and keep you, and may He continue this place and its work so long as there are children who need it.

Eugene A. Bozay
4601 Valerie Court
Annandale, Virginia

CHRISTIAN TRAINING HAS COME IN HANDY IN REARING A FAMILY

It has been quite some time since I left Christ's Home, but I often think about the many wonderful things that it has done for me. We always had nice clothes to wear and there was always plenty of food for everyone. I often tell my own children about the camping trips the boys used to take with Mr. Kircher.

I am thankful for the many rules and regulations we had to follow and the Christian training we received. At times when I was a young fellow I didn't think I would be grateful for some of the punishment I took, but I have often thanked the Lord for some of that experience has come in handy as I have grown older and started rearing a family of my own.

May God bless you in His work.

Paul Summers and Family
Moreland Road
Bethayres, Pa.

THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE

Just a note of our appreciation for your loyalty and faithfulness through the years that we have been connected with the Home and its loved ones.

We first became acquainted with the Home and its work in 1904 or 1905 when the Home was in its infancy which, of course, was started by its founders, Mother Krausslach and Dr. Oetinger. Happy to say, through the teachings and guidance of Dr. Oetinger that we were brought to know the Lord. My wife entered the Home a few years after it had been opened. She was under Mother Krausslach's care at the time. It has been a precious life for both my wife and myself.

Christ's Home means so much to us. It is our home and we are proud to be a part of it. We both recall in our teenage years we attended the Bible Class that Doctor held every Thursday afternoon. We also attended all the meetings through the week which were held in the city Home and at the Doctor's house at Fifth and George Streets on Sunday evenings. Communion services were first held there, then Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Home. Once a month Doctor would hold an evening meeting at the Cheltenham branch, which we always attended, resulting in an enjoyable day in the country.

Later, in 1908, my parents joined the work at Warminster. These were the best years of my life—working on the farm and then taking up carpentry work. My wife worked in the kitchen, laundry and sewing room after she had moved to the country from the city Home. In 1918 we were married and soon moved to the city where I worked at carpentry for a time. After working at the trade I soon became interested in drawing. It had been a hobby of mine, so at night school I took architectural drawing, which I now have enjoyed through the years with His help and guidance.

We never miss many weeks visiting the Home—snow or ice are the only elements that keep us away. Through the years we have watched the work grow, watched the new leaders take up the work and carry on the same principles and traditions that were established by its founders. It is so wonderful to trust the Lord and live under His care and keeping, enjoying the many blessings He provides and the way He looks after His own.

So with the passing of time we will continue, Lord willing, to visit as usual. May the Lord continue to bless and enlarge your boundaries for His glory.

Katherine and Alfred Lambrecht
5512 Malcolm St.
Phila. 43, Pa.

IT WILL ALWAYS BE HOME

I am deeply grateful for the care I received at Christ's Home throughout my childhood. Most of all, I appreciate the fact that there I came to know Christ as my Saviour. To me, it is still Home, and I know it always will be.

Betty McGonigle
51 W. Seymour St.
Phila., Pa.

A HERITAGE THAT CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FROM US

Backward turn, backward, O Time in your flight. Make me a child again just for tonight . . . To think back and reminisce on my childhood years spent in Christ's Home will take some delving. However, I plan to compare and somehow find out just what makes one click.

A set of rules was laid down for all alike by which we were to live and grow. To rebel against those rules was human, even in a child. I did plenty of that. The keynote of our time was to be a missionary, or to be active in the Lord's work someway. That was commendable, but where was the preparation for such an undertaking?

We did have one of the finest elementary schools about which I always felt there was none better. That was good, but not quite far enough.

However, you, in your kind, intelligent way, stressed higher learning. You stood out and strived tirelessly to impress upon us to diligently apply ourselves for better opportunities in our future.

The need for such was more important for us, as we were alone after we left Christ's Home. Education, in any way, shape or form according to our abilities, was stressed by you. Armed with such a lofty and determined idea, I enrolled in a hospital to become a Registered Nurse. After I graduated, the desire to learn more and more was pressing.

Temple University became my Alma Mater. It was not all easy for I worked and went to school also. Off and on through the years I have taken different subjects, which have been most informative and interesting. I felt all this would make me a better nurse, better to understand those entrusted to my care.

As far as material things and pleasures, we had few, but managed to make our own happiness and pleasures. However, we were rich in Bible lore and a good background of real Christianity. That is a heritage which can never be taken from us. We were also taught to stand on our own two feet. That proved of great value to me many times. Being human, I made many mistakes, but feel sure God knew and understood. His forgiveness was always ready.

May God keep His loving arms around you all.

Jeanne Schrieber Schwartz
115 Carpenter Lane
Phila., Pa.

CHRIST'S HOME IS MADE OF LOVE, ALONE

Christ's Home has meant so much to me. I could never express what it has meant to me. I have been homesick for the past forty-one years, not for the Home alone, but for the dear workers too. Houses are made of brick and stone but Christ's Home was made of "Love Alone."

Give my love and best wishes to all.

Charles Carr
4702 McElroy St.
Tampa, Fla.

GRATEFUL FOR LOVE AND PATIENCE

In the rush of every day living we fail to really count our many blessings. I have retired now and often have an opportunity to speak about my childhood to people who never had the wonderful opportunity of being raised by Christian people. I feel it is time that I let you know that I thank God everyday for calling people like the workers at Christ's Home to care and give their lives for children, who may not appreciate what is being done for them while in the Home; but in later years it all comes back and God works in wondrous ways.

I was admitted to the Home in the city. Mother Krausslach and Dr. Oetinger had started the work there. It was a hard struggle for those who had given up everything, but with their faith and continuous prayers we were fed and clothed in miraculous ways. I shall ever be grateful to Christ's Home for all that was done for me and will never forget the great sacrifice made in my behalf. I am especially grateful to God that I was able to have workers such as Mr. Hanisch and Mr. Baehr to have love and patience to teach me my machinist trade. When I left Christ's Home I was able to work at the trade I was taught. A great thing to me was that nothing was ever undertaken unless the workers had prayer first. Every day started and ended in prayer.

Our days were happy ones and we had to work hard, and in the later years we appreciated and understood their love for us. I shall always remember the workers as prayer warriors and I know "Jesus Never Fails."

Wm. D. Windle
624 Copeley Road
Upper Darby, Pa.

THANK GOD . . . FOR PEOPLE OF CHRIST'S HOME

I'm glad to say at this very moment that I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

It has been a wonderful two years since I gave my heart completely to Christ. For thirty-one years I walked in darkness filled with sin. Carnality filled my life. I was a wicked, spiteful, bitter man until I realized that God is love.

I accepted Christ in my own home by humbling myself and submitting to the power of the Lord. I thank God every day for praying Christians such as my mother and people of Christ's Home. Many prayers were offered for my soul and God saw fit to answer.

The Home means more to me than I have the ability to say. But I can only say I love you all from the bottom of my heart. My prayers are with you always.

Pray for me as I endeavor to serve the Master of my soul. At the present time I am a Sunday school teacher and expect to be a lay preacher if it is God's will for me.

Don Mengel
19 Jarrett St.
Rockledge, Pa.

Deep Feeling of Awe and Gratitude

Words of appreciation to the many workers of Christ's Home are certainly in order especially when one stops to think of the number of God-fearing, law-abiding children that have left the Home and carved a name for themselves in this country of ours.

So many years have elapsed since those in my age bracket commenced making a living for themselves (over 40 years) that the days of our childhood at the Home become somewhat dim. This is not to imply, however, that we can or even want to ignore the righteous manner in which we were raised. Rather it is intended to convey to you the fact that in spite of intervening years there is, and I think I speak for Christ's Home children in general, there is a deep feeling of awe and gratitude to those of you who had so much to do with keeping, feeding and educating so many of us who were entrusted to you.

I personally feel that there has to be a special award for you who have handled the business matters for the Home and have kept it going and growing without resorting to subsidies from the state or other governmental bodies. In this day of increasing political pressure by the various forms of government upon all sorts of enterprises, it is indeed refreshing to dwell upon the set-up at Christ's Home which doesn't allow the lure of worldly goods to alter the basic principles upon which the Home was founded. In short, it is good to be from Christ's Home.

Robert Margsh
64 Forest Park Lane
Huntington, West Virginia

Thankful for Teaching the Bible

I do thank the folks at the Home for teaching us the Bible as children. You do not always understand it when you are young. The way the world is now, the faith you were taught as a child helps so much.

Do you know there are so many people who try to tell you the stories in the Bible are only myths—that someone made them up. The virgin birth of Christ they will not accept. Even some of the young ministers do not believe it. They will tell you Christ was a great teacher, but as a Saviour they will not accept. So you see why I am so thankful about the teaching we had as children.

Pray for us; we need your prayers so much. Love to All.

Mary Adams Lesh
4334 Freeland Ave.
Phila. 28, Pa.

BUILDS MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARACTER

Train up a child in the way which is right and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Christ's Home is a home where those of us who have passed through can only look back with a feeling of grand nostalgia.

The Christian standards and education which are maintained, and have been throughout the years, by persevering Christian workers, tend to build men and women of character and stability.

The ultimate decision of either accepting or rejecting Christ is always left up to each individual boy or girl and coercion is never applied. However, the fear of God is imbued into the hearts and minds of all, and God said that His work will not return to Him void.

Allan Graham
4600 Marvine St.
Phila., Pa.

CAME TO KNOW OF THE LORD

Blessed Easter greetings to all! It was so nice to worship with you dear ones again.

Wish to express a note of appreciation to you dear ones for the love and care given me as a child in the Home, for the many sacrifices made to make Christ's Home, and for your faithful labor of love to all placed in its care.

Under your guidance I came to know of the Lord and can say truly "I thank God upon every remembrance of you."

May the Lord bless, strengthen and keep you and continue to prosper the work for His glory.

Hanna Olsen Cassidy
801 Merion Square Rd.
Gladwyne, Pa. 19035

A GREAT BLESSING AND INSPIRATION

Greetings in Jesus' Name!

Fifty years given to Jesus. Your lessons and teachings of life have been a great blessing and inspiration to me and I am only one. Just think how far-reaching your influence has been over 50 golden years.

Thank God for Christ's Home and all the consecrated workers, who have been our mothers and fathers and uncles and aunts.

May our Lord richly bless each dear one, is my prayer.

Love to all at Home.

Agnes Sension Worrell
4002 E. Powhatan Ave.
Tampa, Florida 33610

GRATEFUL FOR THE GOOD TRAINING RECEIVED

May I say congratulations on the Sixtieth Anniversary of Christ's Home.

Never a day goes by that I don't pray for and thank the Lord for Christ's Home. My husband, George, (also an alumnus) joins me in this testimony.

The Lord has blessed and prospered us and we are so grateful for the good training we received—spiritual as well as physical.

Last fall, I paid a visit to Juvenile Court in Philadelphia with the Presbyterian Church women. My heart ached for those children and I wished they could be in Christ's Home, where they would be taught about our Lord and Saviour.

We are always proud to tell people that we grew up in Christ's Home.

I have such fond memories of "Mother" and "Doctor"—two of the most wonderful people that ever lived.

May God bless and keep you in the coming days.

George and Helen Herwig McAdams
408 Welsh Road
Bethayres, Pa.

MY MISSION FIELD IS THE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

Greetings in the name of our dear Lord Jesus!

In times of discouragement when not knowing what to do, it is wonderful to know that Christ says, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

God has been blessing in the harvest of many souls these past few months and we praise Him for it! However, the financial and material side of things is down right now, due to the coming of the summer months. But it is wonderful to rest assured in the promise that "He will supply our needs."

My mission field here in Spokane, Washington, is quite different from many others. It is not in a "foreign" field. The field itself is the high school campus. What a mission field it is!

Please pray that God will direct in everything that is done, and that many more young people may come to the saving knowledge of our wonderful Lord.

I have been quite busy with evangelistic services, crusades, youth rallies, and general executive duties at our "Youth for Christ" office here in Spokane.

Please pray for me and I will surely remember you in prayer.

Robert Rodgers
Box 5222
Spokane 17, Wash.

How Good the Workers Were to Us

I have never been sorry for one moment for the time that I spent in Christ's Home. It was the best home I ever had.

It seems odd, but a lot of us do not really realize that fact until we leave the Home. But, we do realize it when we are out in the world, alone.

How good the workers in Christ's Home were to devote their lives to us and to teach us so well. So you know that I myself, having been raised in Christ's Home, fully realize the anxiety and at the same time remorse of having to face the world, so to speak, alone.

I hope you are all well. Give my regards to all of the dear workers and friends in Christ's Home. God bless you all for the wonderful work you are doing and will continue to do.

Faye Justice (Mrs. R. DePamphilis, Jr.)
1 N. 29th Ave.
Longport, N. J.

We Want to Come for the Alumni Reunion

It looks like we will be moving in a couple of days. We will send you our new address when we get settled. We have no idea where we are to go. Jud has several cities to choose from, and it is a big decision.

Thank you so much for sending the important dates, we want to come up for the Alumni Reunion and, if all goes well, we will come. Jud won't recognize a lot of his friends as it's been so many years.

Darlene has lost her first tooth. She is real excited about it. She is also anxious to begin school.

Judson, Joyce, Arlene and Laura Gantz
2217 Holliday St.
Wichita Falls, Texas

Christ's Home Has Been A Real Haven

Thanks so very much for Christ's Home and for your interest in me and my family during all these years, and especially during these past few months.

I came to Christ's Home as a little girl. God has been very precious to me all these years.

It always means so much to know that someone is there, when you need them the most. I know that many of our friends are interested in our welfare and family.

Christ's Home has been a real haven to us for which we are most grateful.

Eileen (Flaherty) and Frank Isbell
Warminster, Pa.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE

It was good to see you all, even though it was just for a little while. It has been over a year since we were to see you.

We do want to thank you for all you have done for us. Christ's Home means so much to us.

We are planning on coming up over the weekend of October 26 when they have the banquet.

It is quite hot here. The children are all in bed for a nap as they get up early in the morning.

Please remember us to everyone. God bless you! Love to all.

Helen (Reiker) and Reinhold Titus
R.D. 3, Box 116
Jacksonville, N. C.

GIVEN GOOD CHRISTIAN TRAINING

We both thank the Lord for the good Christian training we were given at Christ's Home. Surely, He watches over those who are children of His, and continues to care and provide for them even after leaving the shelter of this place.

Marion (Guenkel) and Robert Brant
R.D. 1
Willow Grove, Pa.

CONTRAST WITH POOR CHILDREN IN ECUADOR

We are thinking of the contrast of Christmas at Christ's Home and what these poor children have here in Ecuador. They have a few candies and cookies, and a balloon is what most of them receive. How happy they are with these few things!

We are both fine, keeping on the go with our five churches, and also visiting new towns. There is so much to do, and so few to do it.

May God bless you all, and give you a closer walk with Him.

Ruth (Schwab) and Ralph Emery
La Libertad
Guayas, Ecuador, S. A.

IT WAS A GOOD DAY WHEN I WAS BROUGHT TO CHRIST'S HOME

Christ's Home has meant to me the most beautiful place I know of, in the world.

The friends I have made there have been very true to me in times both good and bad. I think it was a good day when I was brought there.

Lillian McGonigle
51 W. Seymour St.
Phila., Pa.

Chapter IX

PRAYER POWER

The Place of Prayer in Christ's Home

Prayer is still the power that touches the hand of the omnipotent One, and brings forth the answer to the heart's petitions and supplications of His saints.

Every morning in Christ's Home at 9 a.m., all the ladies who can make it assemble with the superintendent in the prayer room for morning devotions. At 1 p.m. all the men that are available have their time of united prayer. Each Thursday, for half-hour periods throughout the day, different staff members take a turn in the prayer room. Monthly there is a day of prayer for all, climaxed by an evening service.

God has honored these times that are devoted to special prayer. Many hard problems have been solved. Many serious situations have been encountered and overcome by intercession before the throne of grace. Again and again it has been proved that the Lord hears the prayers of His children and answers according to their faith.

At prayer time, there is placed before the Lord: The needs and problems concerning the work; its personnel, the children, and the old folks. At the same time, intercession is made in behalf of friends; also, the many who phone or write to ask for special prayer are remembered before our heavenly Father. There are many who request that their names be entered on the Home's prayer list. Daily these are brought before the throne of grace.

Our loving Lord hears and faithfully answers prayer, according to His wisdom, in behalf of those for whom intercession is made.

In the school, songs of praise, Bible reading, and prayer also begin the day for the children. Family worship is conducted daily in the dining halls. In addition to giving thanks, the Scriptures are read at all meals, and the daily worship is concluded by singing of a hymn at the end of the evening meal. Each of these services is closed by a word of prayer by one of the staff, a worker or visiting friend.

Houseparents have a time of prayer and fellowship around God's word daily with their children, especially before retiring at the end of each day. The staff believes the Scripture wherein the Lord says:

Give us this day our daily bread

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6)

The fruit of this labor may not be seen immediately, nevertheless in God's own time His handiwork shall be revealed in each boy and girl. This will be the glorious sunrise to those who put their trust in God to fulfill His plan in each child's life.

HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Someone has asked: "Does God still answer prayer?" He most assuredly does, for

"He is the rewarder of them who diligently seek Him." (Heb. 11:6)

Some of our more recent answers to prayer might be recounted as an inspiration and blessing to others. At Christ's Home, the days of miracles have not passed. He is the same Lord who trod the shores of Galilee.

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8)

It was still during the lifetime of Dr. Oetinger that there was experienced a time of frustration. Several large bills had to be paid very soon and there was neither money in hand nor in sight. Faith, however, is not doubting, rather it is believing—believing that one has the answer—even though nothing has yet been received!

Very earnest prayer was made that God would send the needed funds. Shortly thereafter a $1000 check was received from a saint in Philadelphia. She had no personal knowledge of the Home's need but, being a Christian, she felt the urging of God to send this contribution. As a result, the bills were paid on time and several "doubting Thomases" were convinced that God can and does answer prayer. This was a real testimony to God's faithfulness.

Reminder comes of a time during the war (World War II) when the Home could not purchase potatoes, even though money was on hand. They were very scare, since they were needed for the armed forces. In the Home, potatoes are a very important part of the daily diet. So this was another time of real need.

On a nearby highway, a truck loaded with potatoes lost a wheel and ran into a ditch. Fortunately the driver was uninjured. Being a cold winter's day, he phoned his office immediately, for if left in the outdoors the potatoes would soon be unfit for human consumption.

In the office was a friend who knew that Christ's Home was nearby. Another phone call was made. Could the Home use a truck load of potatoes? Potatoes! That word almost sounded like gold.

Although sorry about the accident, hearts sang praises to God for this definite answer to prayer. God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

On another occasion, potatoes were again in very short supply at the Home. This time potatoes were plentiful but the Home did not have the wherewithal to purchase them. There were houses and land—no cash. It takes cash to buy.

Miraculously, a private school phoned to inquire whether the Home could use some of this precious product of the underground. A full truck load was available, since they had far too many for their needs. How hearts rejoiced in a loving Father's special care. (Naturally, the Home grows potatoes but for some years the crop was not sufficient for its large family.)

A number of times when pressed for funds, God has answered in different ways. On several occasions checks have been received from an anonymous donor—just when the need was acute. Once the check was for $2000, then another for $3000, and one time it was $6000. This contributor's bank is some distance from Christ's Home, and up to the present time the donor is altogether unknown—but to God. He will abundantly bless and reward him for these gifts of love.

So thanks to a loving Lord for His faithfulness, day by day. And thanks for gifts that come in answer to prayer in time of dire need.

HOW GOD ENLARGES THE BORDERS

For years the Home had endeavored to purchase ground adjoining its cemetery, in order to meet increased needs, but always without success. Fortunately the Lord had a solution to this problem of which no one ever dreamed.

There was a large and fairly steep hollow, or small valley adjacent to the cemetery, on the Home's own ground, but the cost of filling it was prohibitive. Then came the surprise. From the construction of the nearby Hatboro Savings and Loan Association building came sufficient excavated soil to partially fill the hollow. Then, when the road running by the cemetery was widened to form a dual highway, the contractor was looking for an outlet for the excess from his grading operations. He was happy to dump this soil in the Home's hollow, thereby helping to fill it up, and incidently making the cemetery larger.

Nor was this the end of it all. Warminster needed an outlet for soil from its sewage disposal system. Result: this, too, became fill dirt for that hollow.

Now the cemetery is three times its original size!

Do you believe that miracles can be performed by our God in this day and age? While the Home could neither buy fill nor purchase adjoining land, a faithful Lord had His own plan for enlarging the burial grounds. One stands amazed at the ways the Lord anwers prayer. Many times, in ways one cannot comprehend at first, He reveals His open hand, then His children begin to understand His plan, and see the wisdom of relying upon Him.

The living God doeth all things well. Truly, His ways are not our ways. Thus we pray for yielded hearts and submissive wills to obey Him.

Words fail to adequately express heartfelt thanks to God and the dear ones who have so marvelously stood by to help in this great work of His. One could go on indefinitely, enumerating the many definite answers to prayer, how God supplies daily bread, food, clothing and shelter for this large family of over 300 souls. He also provides for the upkeep of the buildings and roads, machinery for the farms, cars and trucks. Also gas and oil, lighting and heating, school and medical supplies. Our loving Father is vitally interested in each facet of the work—for this is His home.

> "Beloved, He who sees the sparrow fall, feeds the ravens, clothes the lily, numbers the very hairs of our heads, will surely cover us with His wings. Under His all-seeing eye, and within the scope of His omnipotent arm, we are utterly secure. If God be for us, who can be against us."
>
> (H. C. Spence)

Chapter X

TESTIMONIES OF ALUMNI WHO ARE NOW STAFF MEMBERS AND WORKERS

Alumni who are now staff members and workers at the Home

Here I Found That Which Counts Most

To write what the Home means to me could be a lengthy and wordy epistle, because, through the years my contacts with the Home have been many.

Christ's Home to me is the summit of what God can do for people, if they obey His call. He promised the founders that He would supply all the needs of the Home if they would obey His call and start the work. For sixty years God has fulfilled His promise, and today, the Home is God's answer to the world that what He had promised, He has fulfilled.

Every day of my life I am amazed and awed by the many miraculous ways God answers prayer. He supplies the material, and physical needs of the work in sending food, clothing, etc., and also laying it on the hearts of men and women to be joined to the work to give of their talents in carrying on the vision of the founders of the Home.

Then, too, I praise God for my contact with the Home as a child, for here I was raised and here I was educated; but above all, here I found that which counts most—my need of a Saviour, and I am proud to be a part of the Home, able to serve Him to the best of my ability.

I constantly pray God that future generations of boys and girls raised here will find Christ as the only means of happiness and accept Him as Lord of their life.

William Hastings
(Operator of Christ's Home Laundry)

PRAYERS ANSWERED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES

I am pleased that I have the privilege to say a few words as to what Christ's Home has meant to me.

First of all, I do not remember coming to the Home, for I was less than a year old when some kind-hearted Christian friend delivered me to Christ's Home for an indefinite stay, which lasted more than sixteen years. The Bible says, "When father and mother forsake thee, the Lord will take thee up." Unknown to me then, I was very fortunate, because the Lord did take me up . . . to Christ's Home.

In the Home, because of human, kind and loving Christian workers, I was given a home that I shall be proud of as long as I live. Yes, as a boy, I had my complaints, but the Lord was patient and long-suffering. He forgave me and does not hold me responsible for these childhood mistakes. As I look back, it is a joy for me to remember how special things were prayed for—to see those prayers answered before our very eyes—to read about miracles in the Bible and then see miracles performed before our very eyes; to grow up among people, who not only believe in prayer, but practiced the life of prayer; to prepare not only for the material and physical challenges of this world, but also the spiritual; to be trained not only for this world, but for eternity.

Christ's Home has been a real blessing to me and many, many other boys and girls, men and women. Eternity, alone, will reveal the many lives which have been saved by having the opportunity of being cared for in Christ's Home by servants of the Lord, who loved Him and have given their entire lives to His service. There are many today who will never know or even appreciate the testimony, the hard work, the long hours, the backaches, the heart-aches, the many prayers and miracles and sacrifices, the happiness and joy of helping others—which the workers experienced. Yes, the Lord is good to Christ's Home and all its needs are supplied. In the early days there was less money and more prayer, but, thank God, He is the same Lord yesterday, today and forever.

Because of the loving testimony and spiritual influence of the staff of Christ's Home during my childhood and out of gratitude to them and the desire to serve my Lord, I am pleased and proud to be one of the staff members of Christ's Home today. Mine is a triple motive for being in Christ's Home: (1) To serve my Lord in whatever capacity He can use me. (2) To stand by those workers, who stood by me when I needed help, and in every possible way to make their load lighter, to encourage, to help and be a blessing to them as they were to me. (3) Along with my fellow staff members to uphold the principles and purpose of the founding workers and with God's help, assist in advancing the work of Christ's Home to the glory of God so that when we meet in Heaven, there will be one grand reunion of founders, staff members, children, alumni, and donors, with our Lord saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

Donald Dewey
(Treasurer of Board, Purchasing Agent, and Housefather)

OUR TESTIMONIES TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Christ's Home has been my home since I was a child of four years, and the same goes for my husband who was seven when he became a member of the Home. We came then, not by choice, but because we were brought here by our respective parents, who came to dedicate their lives in the service of the Lord, and gave all they owned to help with the early construction program. Today, after more than 50 years, we are still here, though now by choice, as staff members of the Home.

In retrospect, we can see God's guiding hand in both our lives. When Carl's father—who was the farmer and dairy man—was released from his duties here for a better life beyond, it seemed the most natural thing for Carl to carry on where he left off, since he had been shouldering the responsibilities for all the years of his father's illness. In the beginning he was not sure this was what he wanted for his life's work; and he often said if someone would tell him to leave, he would feel free to go elsewhere. Since no one, not even God gave him the "go" signal, we are sure the Lord wanted him to stay and serve here, and in this capacity we have been doing just that for over 27 years. In the course of those years, Carl has had some very attractive offers of work with "gentlemen farmers," but has turned them down for the sake of that peace of mind which comes only when you are doing what you feel God wants you to do.

During our courtship days, a good friend prophetically said to me, "I can see you two getting married and working together as workers in Christ's Home." I replied, "The first statement is definitely true but the latter is certainly not." It seems that God had plans that didn't coincide with mine, and I have found out through many wonderful personal experiences, as well as shared ones, that it pays well to be on His side.

The feeding of the soul we leave in the hands of those whose talents are in that direction, while the feeding of the body is our lot. It is very rewarding to see His blessings on our crops of grain and potatoes as well as on the milk and egg production—the fundamental things we need to sustain life as long as God grants us life.

Carl & Martha Baehr Pflaumer
(Dairy Farmer and His Wife)

GOD HAS BEEN FAITHFUL

I do thank the Lord for Jesus, my Saviour and Redeemer.

I am so grateful for God's goodness and mercy throughout my many years in Christ's Home, first as an alumnus, and now as a staff member.

God has been so faithful and I do thank him.

Ruth Cook
(Staff Member and Dining Room Asst.)

A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE HIM

Wondrous are God's ways of speaking to His children.

As a small boy my brother and I were admitted to Christ's Home because of the death of our mother.

Little did I think that one day I would serve the Lord in Christ's Home.

What a privilege it is to be called, chosen and ordained to serve Him. God has richly blessed me. He has given me a wonderful wife, Marie Pflaumer (the daughter of former staff members). He has blessed our marriage with two sons; William, Jr., who is married and has a garage near Johnsville, Pa; and Ronald, who assists his brother in his business.

We could never express our gratitude to God for all His wonderful love, grace and mercy bestowed upon us.

Thanks be unto God for all the riches we have found in the Lord Jesus Christ since we have both yielded our lives for His service.

William and Marie Pflaumer Hamilton
(Staff Members, Board Member, and Mechanic)

IN CHRIST'S HOME I HEARD ABOUT THE LORD

When my father and my mother forsake me then the Lord will take me up. So said the psalmist many years ago as he sought to show the extent of God's wonderful care for His own.

In His sovereign will, this truth was to become a vital part of my own life's experience. This verse, therefore, is my testimony, too. This is actually what the Lord did for me in bringing me into Christ's Home when I was but an infant.

It was in Christ's Home that I first heard about the Lord Jesus Christ and His desire to become my Saviour. It was here, too, that I, in response to His truth received Him as my Saviour. Again, it was at Christ's Home that I received the Lord's invitation to serve Him in the work from which I have received so many benefits.

I am eternally grateful to the Lord Jesus Christ for His working through Christ's Home to provide for me and many others.

Charles Warfield
(School Teacher and Aux. Board Member)

Chapter XI

TESTIMONIES OF STAFF MEMBERS

Had Desire to Serve in the Home When Nine Years old

The twenty-six years that I have been in Christ's Home have been the happiest years of my life. He has put a song in my heart which is everlasting and has proved Himself faithful every step of the way.

Christ's Home was no strange place to me. My first visit was at the tender age of four months, attending the Bible Conference with parents. I don't believe I've ever missed one since.

At the age of nine I remarked to Miss Barbara that when I grew up I would like to be a school teacher at Christ's Home. Years later, upon graduating from Philadelphia College of Bible in 1937, I came to Christ's Home as a first grade teacher. Miss Barbara then reminded me of the desire I expressed at nine years of age. I had forgotten it but the Lord had not. "Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give thee the desire of thine heart."

The Lord has never left me penniless and has filled my life with an abundance of good things. He answers prayer in the little things as well as the big.

My prayer is that He will find me a willing vessel meet for the Master's use until He comes.

Agnes Dewey (Mrs. Donald Dewey)
(Former School Teacher, now Housemother
and Staff Member)

Active Since 1912, By His Grace

I praise God that Jesus is my Saviour and Redeemer. He washed my sins away with His own precious blood shed on Calvary.

As a young woman I entered the work of Christ's Home on June 11, 1912, and by His grace am still active in His service.

The Lord has been very precious. He has faithfully led and guided me step by step in His divine plan for my life.

Never have I regretted this final decision to follow my Lord all the way.

I beg you, dear ones, to whom God is speaking, yield your all to Jesus. You will never regret this decisive step.

He is a wonderful Saviour and a constant companion!

Minnie B. Sellers, Matron
(School Principal and Secretary of the Board)
(Only Surviving Charter Staff Member)

COMMIT THY WAY UNTO THE LORD

The above verse is the promise the Lord gave to me many years ago when I was passing through deep waters. He brought me forth triumphantly then, and has never once failed since.

At an early age God had saved me as I trusted in Jesus and His atoning Blood. Later, after years spent in teaching school and as a housewife and mother —after our home was broken up—I was led to come to Christ's Home in the late summer of 1943, for a visit.

On coming in contact with the children in the dormitories at Christ's Home, I knew that this was my calling—not teaching this time, but as a houseparent. A group of boys came under my care. Through the years this work has brought great satisfaction—and the Lord has put His seal upon it with His abiding peace.

To be in the will of the Lord God, wherever He calls, brings the only real happiness. Truly, in His presence is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Hazel Mann
(Staff Member, Housemother)

THIS IS WHERE GOD WANTS ME

As a staff member in Christ's Home, I have been very happy in my work here, for I feel in my heart this is where God wants me. I have learned many lessons here, as this is one of the best training schools I know of in God's vineyard. I can see many changes in my life for the better, when I compare my present life with what it was when I first came to Christ's Home. I trust I will learn many more lessons as I go on in the Lord. I want all that the Lord has for me, so I want to give Him my utmost for His highest.

Minnie Emmerman
(Housemother and Staff Member)

MY SONG

I even reckon all things as pure loss because of the priceless privilege of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. (Phil. 3:8). (Weymouth)

"This my song through endless ages, Jesus led me all the way."

Florence Kranz (Mrs. Martin Kranz)
(Housemother and Staff Member,
Wife of Former Superintendent)

A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO SERVE

Since I found the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Redeemer, I count it a great privilege to serve Him in Christ's Home.

Marie Schulz
(Cook and Staff Member)

I AM HAPPY IN HIS SERVICE

My call to Christ's Home was not my own decision, but was through constant prayers of Christian workers in the Home and faithful friends of the Home. God was leading and I followed. God is still leading and I want to be a faithful follower of His, both to will and to do of His good pleasure; to do all things without murmurings and disputing. (Phil. 2:13, 14) I am happy in the service of the King.

Frieda Scheiter
(Housemother and Staff Member)

CONFIDENT THAT GOD HAS LED IN THESE YEARS OF SERVICE

Our knowledge and interest in Christ's Home has covered a period of many years. During a ministry of more than a decade in New England, we continued our contact with the Home through its Conference sessions and on other occasions.

We returned to Pennsylvania in the middle forties to accept a call to the Twelfth Street Baptist Church in Allentown. After a blessed ministry of five years, we resigned to obey the direct leading of the Spirit to enter the work at Christ's Home, taking as our responsibility the oversight of the Home for the Aged.

We feel confident that God has definitely led through these nearly thirteen years of service in the Home. A deep sense of joy and happiness has filled our hearts in the knowledge that we have been able to serve Him in some small way by ministering to others.

John and Margaret Bear
(Pastor and Aux. Board Member,
Supt. and Matron of Old Folks' Home)

A DEEP, SETTLED PEACE

While young in years the Lord saved and called me into His service. While serving in the capacity of an evangelist, the Lord definitely called me to work in Christ's Home. A deep settled peace has been mine ever since. Praise His Name!

Mae Knopp
(Retired Housemother and Staff Member)

A JOY AND PRIVILEGE TO LABOR

We came to Christ's Home because of Brother Kircher's sound doctrinal teaching and to be in the Lord's service. It has been a joy and privilege to labor here for Him. Praise His holy Name and Person.

Mary W. Weber
(Staff Member at Old Folks' Home)

WE PRAISE AND THANK THE LORD

We enjoyed Brother Kircher's teaching at 6th St., Philadelphia. "Make me willing to be made willing." For the love and kindness shown us here in the Home we praise and thank the Lord. (1 John 1:7)

Emma E. Weber
(Staff Member at Old Folks' Home)

GREAT IS THE LORD

I will never cease to praise the Lord for saving me, and calling me to Christ's Home. On February 10, 1930, I joined the work and these many years He has been very dear and precious to me. I have lacked nothing and have a deep settled peace in my heart because I know I am doing His will.

If you haven't dedicated your life to God to use you where He pleases, please do so soon and enjoy the sweet fellowship of the Son of God.

Leidy Rudolph
(Staff Member, former Housemother,
now in charge of Receiving Dept.)

PRAISE FOR A LIFE SENTENCE

I do want to praise and thank my Lord for His goodness to me. In my first years in the Home, Dr. Oetinger used to make his rounds in the morning from house to house. One day he stopped at my door and said, "How long are you in?" I answered and said, "I am sentenced for life." He wept and walked away. Today, August 8, 1963, it is 49 years that I am in the Home.

I praise the Lord for the privilege of serving in Christ's Home. His banner over us is love.

Louise Zendler
(Board Member and Cook)

I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT JESUS NEVER FAILS

Fifty-three years ago I made my first visit to Christ's Home. Previous to my visit I had heard that Christ's Home depended entirely upon God for all supplies and that prayer was the key to make known unto God every need.

I had gone to church and Sunday School all my life, but this method used for the support of an orphanage was very new and absurd to me, so with this in mind, considerable persuasion was needed for me to make this first visit. Dr. Oetinger brought the message that day, which concerned the imminent and soon return of the Lord Jesus. I went away from Christ's Home that evening more deeply confused than ever.

Later I met Mother Krausslach, who made a deep and lasting impression upon me with her happy countenance and loving heart. With some persuasion from Mother, and my sincere interest and love for children, I was led to again visit Christ's Home. Dr. Oetinger that day used for his text, "Behold the Lamb of God." This message convicted me to the point of a realization that I was a sinner and needed a saviour. About two weeks later I surrendered my heart to the Lord Jesus.

I am happy and sincerely thankful to say that with all my limitations the Lord Jesus has been so faithful to me. I know from experience that Jesus never fails. By trusting in Him my every need can be supplied and a blessed hope is mine in knowing He will soon return for His own according to His precious promises in the Bible.

Clara Wolbert
(Retired Staff Member,
former Matron of Christ's Home)

A PRIVILEGE TO LABOR FOR THE LORD

We praise and thank the Lord for calling us into this work among the children.

What a privilege and opportunity it is to labor for our Lord and Master who loved us so to die on Calvary's tree, that we might have eternal life—a life of joy and peace here in this present world, looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Milton and Leora Eder
(Staff Members and Truck Farmer)

A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO LEAD BOYS TO THE LORD

After 13 years of laboring together with our fellow co-laborers the fellowship has grown sweeter, trials more, burdens heavier, sickness oft, but over all is the assurance of the Lord's promises "as thy day so shall thy strength be." So how can we fail when He is the source of our strength, our joy, our peace. He speaks and says, "My Grace is sufficient" so we heed the message of Hebrews, "Let us go on."

An up-to-date testimony takes place in our living room, when one night in February, 1963, with a great burden on our hearts, the Lord lifted it by giving Mr. Schwarz the privilege of leading six boys to the Lord and seeing them accept Him as their personal Saviour, and a few months later at the end of Conference week be baptized. This is real joy, seeing fruit of one's labor. Praise the Lord.

Edward and Naomi Schwarz
(Houseparents, Aux. Board Member, and Bookkeeper)

THE LORD HAS ADDED MANY BLESSINGS

Having been reared in a Christian home, I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior at an early age. Family altar was a daily devotional period in our home, and memorization of Scripture a gentle requirement. I am deeply grateful to my parents, and above all, the Lord, for this Christian foundation.

Upon graduating from high school, the Lord enabled me to further my education at Bob Jones University, from which I graduated in 1947 with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education. Even though there was a great element of enjoyment in the six years of public school teaching which I experienced, I was somewhat discontented because of the restrictions for presenting the Gospel to the children and therefore began to inquire about children's work in a Christian orphanage, school, or institution.

The Lord closed several doors, but finally in 1953, through the late Rev. Percy Crawford, I heard about Christ's Home. When I inquired, Mr. M. Kranz encouraged me to submit a letter of application. Shortly after this the Board invited me to visit the Home, and I have been here ever since. The Lord has added many other blessings—a good husband and three precious daughters, along with a deep sense of gratification in doing the work into which He has called me.

Lillian Warfield (Mrs. Charles Warfield)
(School Teacher and Staff Member)

HE CALLED ME TO WORK WITH BOYS

In 1959, the Lord assured me, through His word, that He was calling me to work with the boys I had on my heart.

The Lord has been very good and I can say that He has supplied my needs, as He has promised.

Rae McGee (Mrs. Paul McGee)
(Staff Member and Housemother)

THE LORD IS GOOD

This truth has been well substantiated over the years at Christ's Home. It is a privilege to have a part in this work, dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. (Ps. 48:1)

Paul McGee
(Staff Member, Office Assistant
and Housefather)

PRAISE HIM FOR CALLING ME

Some of my happiest days have been in Christ's Home, serving my Lord. I thank and praise Him with all my heart for calling me into His work.

E. L. Wendel
(Staff Member and Teacher)

MAY THOSE WHO FOLLOW PRESS ONWARD

We, who have been privileged to work at Christ's Home, owe much to the strong, unselfish, self-sacrificing souls who now belong to the past. They had a vision, plus faith, that enabled them to labor on for its achievement. Because of this, we have been inspired and encouraged to greater effort. We have profited from mistakes, and have received help, encouragement and enthusiasm from their successes.

But, just beyond, looms the future—charged with challenge!

May those who follow us, also find much to enrich their lives, and, with sincere appreciation, determine to press onward and upward, that Christ's Home may continue to bless lives until He comes.

Julia E. Martin
(Staff Member and Teacher)

CHRIST'S HOME IS MY HOME

Thirty-two years ago, when I was in despair because of circumstances, and did not know where to turn, my Lord and Saviour brought the name of Christ's Home before me (which I did not know and had never seen).

Since then I have not only appreciated Christ's Home as my home, but I also—and most of all—have been delighted to be able to serve Him here, which I have done with all my heart.

Erna Campbell
(Staff Member and Cook)

HE ENABLES ME TO RENDER SERVICE

Christ's Home is the home of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour. It is the home of great blessing, contentment, joy and peace to those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb, and receive the call of the Lord for service. This privilege is mine, for which I am grateful. He enables me to render service according to His will—with a physical ailment. I experience the truth "as thy days, so shall they strength be." (Deut. 33:25) Jesus never fails.

Lottie Liebold
(Staff Member and Seamstress)

HE HAS BLESSED ME WONDERFULLY

"Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me. Morning by morning, new mercies I see." I can surely say this from the bottom of my heart, since the Lord called met to Christ's Home 23 years ago. He has blessed me wonderfully and has supplied my every need. He has made me very happy in my work. I thank Him that He has called me to Christ's Home. I do hope that I can serve Him many more years.

Bertha Schwarz
(Staff Member and Seamstress)

A BLESSING TO HELP HIS LITTLE ONES

In the late summer of 1953, the Lord Jesus Christ called me to enter the work of Christ's Home.

It is a privilege and a blessing to help advance God's kingdom in the lives of HIS LITTLE ONES, and to help lighten the burden of those who carry the responsibility of this heavenly calling, in a world of darkness and confusion.

John O. Liebold
(Staff Member and Sexton)

PRAISE FOR HIS KINDNESS AND MERCY

God worked through circumstances, and in His time and place brought me to Himself for salvation. Then, through His word and the Holy Spirit, directed my life to do His will.

Proverbs 16:3-6 have shown their truths to me.

I praise God for His loving kindness, and great mercy.

Anna Woodring
(Staff Member and Laundress)

THE LORD FOUND A MAN WILLING TO OBEY

It is my privilege to have the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, and Lord. Through His mercy, I was able to recognize His voice to work here and to be a member of the Christ's Home family.

It is wonderful that the Lord found a man who was willing to obey Him, Dr. Oetinger, who undertook this work, trusting only God, who has promised in Matt. 18:5: "Whoso shall receive a little child in my name, receiveth me."

Johanna Liebold
(Staff Member and Cook)

FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

I praise God for the Lord Jesus Christ, who became my Saviour many years ago.

I do thank Him for His goodness and faithfulness throughout my fifty years of service in Christ's Home.

God has been so good to me.

Anna Reinhold
(Staff Member and Former Laundress)

HERE I HAVE LEARNED TO SEE JESUS

I praise God for the privilege of being one of His vessels at Christ's Home. My prayer is that the children who pass through here will go forth to that abundant life which we know, instead of the want and desperation that could have been their lot. I praise Him for the many men who have found usefulness here after having lost their way in life, and for the Old Folks Home where many have found peace and praise in the last years of their lives. I praise Him for the many visitors and backers of Christ's Home and for the testimony it has been to them. Here I have learned to see Jesus. "What a glory He sheds on our way."

Helen Michener
(Staff Member and Teacher)

PRAYER THAT LIFE AND SERVICE SHALL ALWAYS BE WORTHY

It was Thanksgiving 1948, when we and our two children entered the Lord's work at Christ's Home. Since then we have given thanks to God many times over for the privilege of serving Him here. Answers to prayer have been far too numerous to fully relate here. Words are, indeed, inadequate to fully express what the Lord has done in maintaining the work of Christ's Home and its workers, with whom it has been our joy to labor, through the years. The active ingredient in living the life of service into which we were led, has not been what we can get out of it, but what we can give into it for the Lord's sake. In following the Lord's example, we came to minister, not to ourselves, but to others and we have never suffered from unemployment, nor lacked any good thing.

We do not count it a sacrifice to serve our Lord and Saviour Who came to this earth to put away our sin by the sacrifice of Himself. It is a high joy to both walk and work with Him in association with this needed ministry, which continues to extend its Christ-centered service to many homes in distress. Our engagement with the serious task of leading souls to Christ and in encouraging fellow Christians to persevere in spiritual growth and dedicated service, is, indeed, an adventure in God's grace with a daily challenge making life meaningful and purposeful in these difficult times.

It is our earnest prayer that our life and service shall always be worthy of Him Who called us, and that we shall meet Him unashamed at His coming.

Robert and Edna Isbell, Staff Members
(Mr. Isbell, Superintendent of Christ's Home and President of Board)

A PRIVILEGE TO BE IN THE LORD'S WORK

In 1940 I found Christ as my Saviour in a small Methodist Church. For the next year, in God's providence, I had the privilege of hearing Brother Robert Kircher of Christ's Home preach the Word every Monday night in our home in Philadelphia. These messages affected me deeply. During four years of World War II the sermons that this servant of God preached were still fresh to me.

After the War, I went to Mr. Kircher and asked him to recommend some Bible School that I might attend. He not only suggested the Lancaster School of the Bible, but said that he would take me there the following week.

While at Bible School, the Lord's leading seemed to be toward the mission field or Christ's Home. During the last two years of school, the conviction grew that Christ's Home was the place of His appointment.

In June, 1949, after graduation, my wife (whom I met at school) and I entered the work of Christ's Home at Warminster. Six months later, we were transferred to the Paradise branch.

The past 14 years have gone by swiftly. It has been a privilege to be in the Lord's work.

Edward Jerchau
(Staff Member and Leader at Paradise)

THE LORD HAS TAUGHT MANY PRECIOUS LESSONS

At the age of six, I accepted the Lord as my Saviour at a Bible Club that my sister held in our home. A few years later, I dedicated my life to the Lord, for Him to use wherever He saw fit.

Upon finishing high school, I entered the Lancaster School of the Bible, where I was faced with many fields of service. After seeking the Lord's will as to my future work, a fellow student introduced me to Christ's Home at Warminster. I had heard Mr. Robert Kircher speak of it quite frequently at school, but never visited until Thanksgiving of 1947.

I believe that it was during this visit that the Lord showed me very clearly His will for my life.

After graduation in June, 1949, the student that brought Warminster to my attention became my husband, and the two of us entered the work of Christ's Home.

The Lord has taught us many precious lessons during these past 14 years, and we are so thankful for the joy and peace we have in serving Him in this, His work.

Ruth Jerchau (Mrs. Edward Jerchau)
(Staff Member and Housemother at Paradise)

ALTHOUGH UNWORTHY HE PROVED FAITHFUL

On one occasion, while visiting Christ's Home, it was my privilege to hear Dr. Oetinger speak, saying: "I have two callings from the Lord: first, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not' and, second, 'To call out a people for His name's sake'."

Upon hearing these words, I sensed immediately the desire to belong to such a group. Although so unworthy, He has assured me through I Cor. 1:26-27 that He would prove to me His faithfulness.

Marie Mueller
(Staff Member and Cook, Paradise, Pa.)

THE WAY OF MAN IS NOT IN HIMSELF

At the age of 12 I was saved in a little Mennonite church in Saskatchewan, Canada. Thirty-three years later, the Lord called me to Christ's Home to serve Him there. In dealing with me, He used the last portion of Luke 12:13 to cause me to consider life in the light of this truth: "Life consisteth not in the abundance of things which man possesseth." These past ten years I have proved Him faithful.

Esther Musser Liebold (Mrs. Karl Liebold)
(Staff Member and Seamstress)

DAY BY DAY CO-LABORERS WITH HIM

About the time of my 30th year, my parents were made acquainted with the Home. Later on, after I was born again, friends went so far as to tell me that I belong in the Home!

The Lord made clear to me that I was to leave my business and arrange to go to Christ's Home—which became a reality May 1953.

For who hath despised the day of small things? Whether one awakens to the realization of such despising or being tempted, how blessed to know that the abundant provision in the blood of Jesus availeth to overcome in this day when specialization seems to crowd out the importance of faithfulness and willingness in the performance of the commonplace and insignificant tasks. To be led by His Spirit is also to experience the quickening of His Spirit (Ro. 8:11), as we purpose day by day to be co-laborers together with Him.

Karl Liebold
(Staff Member and Maintenance)

HIS GRACE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT

I thank the Lord that He became my personal Saviour in Aug., 1954.

I praise Him for His leading and His guidance since He saved me.

I thank Him for bringing me to Christ's Home. I do praise Him for the opportunity of serving in His vineyard. His grace has been sufficient for each day. He is a wonderful Saviour!

Ruth McKee
(Staff Member and Nurse)

HE HAS LED US

I never had the desire to go to another country until the Lord called me to Christ's Home in 1936.

He gave me this Word: "Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee." (Jer. 1:7)

I praise God for His wonderful salvation through Jesus Christ my Lord, and count it a privilege to serve Him and to know that He called and chose me for His service. I also rejoice to be with my sister working together for Him, praising Him for the way He has led us and for His faithfulness day by day.

Lena Zendler
(Staff Member and Cook)

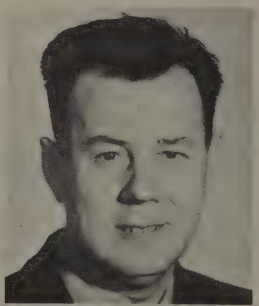
Mr. Wurst
Staff Member 1908
Secretary of Board 1920-41

Miss Zendler and Miss Sellers
Staff Members for 50 and
52 years, respectively

Miss Wolbert
Matron 1931-48

Rev. Bear, Superintendent
Old Folks' Division

Miss Annie, Staff Member
for 52 years



Mr. Jerchau, Administrator
Paradise Division

At the laundry mangle

In the boys' kitchen

In the receiving department

Teaching staff at Christ's Home school

School Principal

Graduation exercises

There are 135 boys and girls at Warminster, 1963

Chapter XII

MONUMENT TO OUR WONDER-WORKING GOD

United in Bonds of Christ

Christ's Home is a monument to a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God! It has been founded upon the example of sacrifice that He made. God permitted His son to be crucified on dark Calvary that through His precious blood, we could have a personal, living Saviour. The staff of Christ's Home has been definitely called of God to labor in this vineyard —to deny self and to take up the cross daily, and to follow Him. In other words, the staff must sacrifice personal hopes, desires, and ambitions to lay them on God's altar in order to be prepared for (meet for) the Master's use. Lives must be wholly dedicated to God, if He is to use them for the salvation of souls and for the building of His Church.

The Lord has called, and is calling, servants of His to serve in actual work at Christ's Home. He has also called some on the outside to minister by praying for this work, others to give of their services from time to time, and still others to contribute material things. Some contribute financially and some in other ways.

Thousands have sacrificed money, donated food, clothing, other material things, or their services. These are God's stewards to help promote His cause in Christ's Home.

With the cooperation of God's servants on the outside, and the labor of the staff inside Christ's Home—this is what makes it the Lord's work. This is how He operates.

His saints serve the Lord with many diverse talents, abilities, qualifications. As the Lord adds His blessing, to each consecrated servant, the work goes forward. From a very insignificant beginning God has blessed Christ's Home until today it stands as "a living monument." These are hallowed grounds, not only because of its past history, rather because His divine presence is here today—and every day. As He works through staff and workers, prayer warriors and helpful friends, it is His Holy Spirit who is ministering . . .

May this encourage all of us to continue our own personal part of His ministry, united in the bonds of Christ, in the bonds of faith and love, with that same spirit of sacrifice that spurred Him to give His all in doing the will of His Father.

SELF-SACRIFICING STAFF

Several of the Staff members have served the Lord in Christ's Home for 50 years or more. Miss Carrie Merkel, for example, had served for 58 years before being called home to glory in 1962. Three other members have served for long periods—two for 51 years, the third for 49. Another put her hand to the plough over 40 years ago. Not a few have served for 25 years or more, several for 15.

Staff members are faithful, loyal-hearted, consecrated men and women, who have given their "all" for their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in His vineyard at Christ's Home.

> "The colorful sunsets and starry heavens, the beautiful mountains and shining seas, the fragrant woods and painted flowers are not half so beautiful as a soul that is serving Jesus out of love, in the wear and tear of a common, unpoetic life." (Selected)

God's word has been the standard, the stay, and the comfort of the Home's workers. "The Bible is God's word to mortal man. Read it to be godly; use it to be fruitful; believe it to be faithful; and trust it to have peace."

As we follow our blessed Lord, day by day, we find the holy Bible is a sure guide. "Here the Father plans, the Son executes, the Spirit operates. The way of salvation is made plain; heaven is revealed; hell is described. The cross is its center, eternal life its fruition, and God's glory its end."

As we look back to the exemplary, consecrated lives of Dr. Oetinger and Mother Krausslach, we marvel at God's wondrous plan for Christ's Home. The fervor of the Spirit of God, the zeal and love for their Lord have influenced and inspired the lives of many staff members, stimulating them to a similar life of consecration to God. The devotion of these pioneers, their ministry of helpfulness and sacrifice, have drawn many to a wholehearted surrender to God for His service in Christ's Home.

Staff Members at Christ's Home, 1949

HOW GOD TRAINS THE STAFF

James Hervey (1714-1758) has expressed his sentiments about man's ways in this pithy verse:

Since all the downward tracts of time,
God's watchful eye surveys,
Oh, who so wise to choose our lot,
And regulate our ways.

The last two lines bring to mind the way the Lord worked in behalf of a staff member to adjust her life's ways.

This dear girl had left a very lucrative situation in which she was drawing two salaries, one as a teacher and another as a supervisor of student teachers. As she entered Christ's Home she brought sufficient clothing for a long period of time, having purchased in advance a four-year supply!

See how the Lord handled this case. Our kind heavenly Father does not, as a rule, argue with us, but He knows how to "regulate our ways."

This dear girl gained 20 pounds in weight after being at the Home for a while, and was unable to wear any of all her lovely apparel. Having sacrificed all her assets, including a rather large ($10,000) insurance policy, she was not in a position to purchase any new clothing. Almost frantic, she confided her dilemma to another staff member. She was told of the provisions made at Christ's Home for supplying clothing to staff members.

(There is at the Home a department where all used clothing given by friends is handled. There are divisions for ladies and men. Once a month there is a day amusingly known to the staff as "Bonwit Teller" or "Wanamaker" day, at which time the ladies may choose from the used clothing on hand such items as they require.)

With her shopping bag in hand, a fast-beating heart, and a very crimson face she quite reluctantly entered this department. Here she found sufficient clothing of the correct size to satisfy her needs. The ordeal was now over. Hereafter she could shop, not with a red face but, with praise and thanksgiving to God for supplying her needs.

This was a real experience. God had brought her to the end of herself. She then realized that God wanted her for His own special treasure. Our heavenly Father knows how to train His child.

In other cases God had to use different methods to make His children know that He is sufficient and able to do exceeding abundantly—more than one can ask or think. God's methods and procedure are sublime.

One of the brethren had come as a young man to Christ's Home, assisting in the summer work on the farm, or wherever the need was greatest. Very proud by nature, he especially liked good clothing. While living in the city (before residing at the Home) he had bought a new suit and, not finding it to his liking, had sent it to Christ's Home for someone less fastidious.

After being in the Home for a number of months his clothing became worn and required replacement. Since he, like all other staff members, received no salary, there was no money to buy clothing. However, when told of the men's clothing department, he went to see what he could find. A search was made but no apparel of the right size could be seen. Then, the head of this department remarked that he had an unopened package which, when opened, was found to contain a new suit—never used before!

Did this young man remember? Indeed, he did. And, what a surprise! This was that which he had rejected the year before. God had preserved it for the specific purpose of revealing his vanity and pride.

Without saying anything to anyone, he took the suit and returned to his tasks. After God had dealt with him, he had the necessary grace to tell the story of how God had humbled him to make him useable in His vineyard. This was none other than dear Brother Robert Kircher, who later became the third superintendent. God mightily used him for the upbuilding and spiritual growth of many of His choicest men and women.

God dealt with one of the women in almost the same fashion. Not only did she wear second-hand clothing, hers were "hand-me-downs" from the older staff members (until the sin of pride was dealt with). It was one thing to wear used clothing from people on the outside. Who could stand to wear clothing twice removed from the original owner, so that even children and members of the Home remarked, "Wasn't that so-and-so's dress?" Indeed, this was excellent training. The Lord was preparing His child for her place in His service.

When one has reached the place where God's will is uppermost in the life and heart, then that one can be a real power and influence for Him—even in Christ's Home.

Although the pioneer days were difficult days, sweet were the fruits of righteousness, gleaned from these precious yielded vessels of clay—molded by the divine potter, the Lord Jesus Christ. How God works these miraculous changes in the lives of men and women we cannot comprehend. Notwithstanding, we know that He does mold these earthen vessels of clay into vessels meet for the Master's use.

One time, Brother LeRoy Brown visited at Christ's Home, while it was still in the city of Philadelphia. As they sat down for their meal, Mother Krausslach requested him to ask the blessing on the food. He replied, "There is no food, only pickles." Mother said, "When you ask the blessing, the Lord will have the food here." As he finished prayer, there came a knock at the door, then a grocery man brought in a large basket of food. This supplied more than was needed. These groceries had not been ordered but were a gift from our loving heavenly Father for His needy children. This was a demonstration of faith in prayer to God.

Furthermore, this was the means of leading our dear brother and his wife into a life of faith. He had not really believed that God would answer prayer, until he experienced it for himself. Afterwards, God led these dear ones to Christ's Home; then as missionaries to the mountains of Tennessee for 23 years, and finally, back to the Home again. As a result, 26 children from Tennessee were sent to Christ's Home through their ministry, trophies of God's wondrous grace.

Brother Brown has finished his earthly ministry. His dear wife continues her labor of love to this day, teaching first grade children in the Home's school.

While the foregoing incidents may seem insignificant, perhaps even amusing, it is these small things that frequently keep us from being our best for God. As the Scriptures say:

"It is the little foxes that spoil the vine."

Many of the staff have left lucrative positions to serve God in more humble walks of life. It is not so much the place or the position we hold in life, as how we perform either the lowly or the sublime tasks that God has given us to do.

Annie Johnson Flint expresses this sentiment in a most appropriate way:

Christ has no hands, but our hands
To do His work today,
He has no feet, but our feet
To lead men in His way.

He has no tongue, but our tongue
To tell men how He died,
He has no help, but our help
To bring them to His side.

THE MANY BENEFACTORS

In numerous ways God's divine plan is revealed to His trusting children. It is with overflowing hearts, filled with gratitude and thanksgiving, that Christ's Home expresses its appreciation to a loving heavenly Father and to the many friends, contributors and prayer warriors. Many remember to pray regularly: Weekly, monthly, or at more frequent intervals. Some have given from their poverty, others from their abundance, to which God hath given increase. He will not forget to reward each one who has given anything in His name.

Christ's Home is most grateful to churches as well as to individuals, the various church organizations and societies, also civic clubs and business houses. Schools, fire companies, Second Alarmers, Veterans' Auxiliaries, A and P Stores, Acme Stores, Woolworth's, Food Fair, Penn Fruit, butchers, bakers, orchardists, and a greater variety of donors than can possibly be recounted have been used of God to minister to the needs of the Home.

Good used clothing and furniture have proved to be a real blessing. Praise God for each one who remembers the Home so graciously.

Needlework guilds and sewing circles have been used by our loving Lord to supply lovely new garments for many.

All who send money or make bequests have been used of God for the furtherance of His kingdom by supplying material needs for His work at Warminster and Paradise. All these dear ones from many walks of life have sacrificed to help make real the promises of a loving heavenly Father.

Many friends travel to the Home in order to help during the canning season each summer. Several alumni members and acquaintances assist in the kitchens. Others give time for mending, cleaning, and serve in different departments of the work. For the multitude of interested ones, who gra-

Kiddies from the Home enjoying a party provided through the kindness of friends

ciously assist we thank and praise God. It is very encouraging to have someone alongside to help lighten the load and to cheer us with their presence.

Our hearts also rejoice in the faithfulness of our prayer-warriors. James says:

> *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* (James 5:16b)

Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery give their service gratis in auditing the Home's financial accounts yearly. May the Lord bless and abundantly reward them. Forty-one years have they performed this gracious work.

Our hearts well up in praise and adoration to God for His faithful stewards.

An orthodontist supplies his talents gratis for the straightening of the children's teeth. This labor of love is deeply appreciated. May the blessing of God rest upon this dear brother and his family for his kindness in behalf of the Home's children.

How precious to know that the "Lord of Hosts" is our God. And, He is vitally interested in the smallest details of our lives. Not only has He numbered the hair of our heads, He has sent into our midst several barber friends. They donate their services by cutting the children's hair. Now this is certainly a practical way of expressing interest in our children. God has supplied these loyal friends for which the Home is most grateful.

The Master's promise to the many benefactors of the Home is this:

> *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* (Matt. 25:40)

He also will preserve and keep alive those who consider and care for the poor.

> *"Blessed is he that considereth the poor, the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble."* (Ps. 41:1)

We know that the Lord is gracious and full of compassion, and will not neglect to reward each one who has faithfully and loyally sacrificed in behalf of others.

We are reminded of the beautiful sentiment expressed in "The Vision of Sir Launfal" by Lowell:

> Not what we give, but what we share—
> For the gift without the giver is bare;
> Who gives himself with his alms, feeds three—
> Himself, his hungering neighbor, and Me.

GOD'S WAYS WITH HIS TRUSTING CHILDREN

During the war (World War II) when it was difficult to procure wheat, because the government required enormous supplies for the armed forces, the Home's supply became critically short. Prayer was made for wheat but none could be purchased. Brother Kircher, superintendent at that time, was also the baker. He tells of this strange experience: "Each time I took some wheat from the bin for baking, the pile seemed to remain the same, it never grew smaller!"

This remarkable experience lasted for several months, or until the Home's new crop of wheat was harvested. It reminded one of the widow's cruse of oil as related in 1 Kings 17:14.

The Home ground its own wheat to bake whole wheat bread. During the time of the shortage, all we can say is that our supply never failed, we always had our daily whole wheat bread. We cannot explain it, but one thing we know: The Lord supplied bread from this bin of wheat for our large family over a period of three months. As soon as our new wheat was ready for use, then suddenly the bin became empty! Praise His name. He goeth before.

This brings to mind the story of the blind man whom Jesus healed. When asked how it was done, he replied that although he could not say how it was done, one thing he knew for certain:

"Once I was blind, but now I see." (John 9:25)

Does our Lord still answer prayer for His needy ones who trust Him? Indeed, He delights to manifest His loving kindness whenever and wherever hearts look to Him in confidence and in trusting faith. Then He will make real His promises A recent experience illustrates His same loving care today.

Bills were coming due and, not wanting to draw money from the building fund, prayer was made that if it be God's will, would he send sufficient funds for daily maintenance. That morning in the first mail a check arrived from an anonymous donor for over $3000.

Our heavenly Father knows of the need before it is laid before Him, and moves His faithful and loyal stewards to supply it.

Praise God for manifestations of His loving care and wondrous provision.

MORE ABOUT GOD'S WAY

In going through some of the old records of Christ's Home the following is "A Sequel" to the wheat situation written by Rev. Harry J. Sension of Kentucky. We reprint the story just as the GOSPEL HERALD published it. (Rev. Sension is the father of four of our Alumni.)

After reading the article, "How the Lord Miraculously Answered Prayer for a Real Need," by Lawrence Saint, printed in the November 27, 1954 issue of the GOSPEL HERALD, Rev. Harry J. Sension, home missionary in Kentucky, wrote to the HERALD office this interesting sequel:

My own children were raised in Christ's Home, and I have been there many times. There is a sequel to this article which I thought you would like to know and publish if you wish. Rev. Robert Kircher had a baker in the bakery, who was much concerned about the faulty oven. He complained to Brother Kircher about it. Robert went to the woods. There was what they called the "Prayer Hole."

Dr. Oetinger, the founder of Christ's Home, wanted to see Robert this day and was told he was at the "Prayer Hole." As he approached the place he heard someone praying. It was Robert Kircher in desperation calling on the Lord. This is how he prayed: "O Lord, You know all about this oven. It burns the bread before it bakes. I need a new oven, Lord. You would not use this oven if You had to bake this bread. You would get a better one. This one burns and ruins much of the bread, so dear Lord, send us an oven that will do the work right. This old tin oven is no good." Dr. Oetinger waited briefly then called Robert. He said nothing about hearing the prayer.

Sometime later a big truck drove into the Home's yard. The driver of the truck went to either Robert or Dr. Oetinger and said, "I was at a sale in Philadelphia and this brick oven was offered for sale. Now, I had no use for it, and do not know why I bought it. It is a complete oven. Can you folks use it?" That solved the oven problem.

At that time all the coal that could be procured was buckwheat coal (very fine). They bought a carload. It would not burn and bake properly. Robert and the bakehouse boys were again up against it. They prayed again about this problem. A blower was needed to give forced draft. None could be found. One day the home truck returned from a city trip. Someone gave an electric blower. It proved to be the solution to the problem. The Lord answered—first the oven, then the blower. Several years ago I was at the Home again, and to the best of my knowledge the oven is still there. You may use this if you wish. God still hears and answers prayer.

April 2, 1955

THE WAY TO TRIUMPH

Did you know that "It takes sorrow to widen the soul." And, "Power is developed by resistance." Do you also realize that "Tribulation is the way to triumph." "Crowns are cast in crucibles." "Our crowns will be wrested from the giants we conquer."

What is service, someone may ask. Here is a beautiful answer to this oft-asked question:

"For what is service but the life of Jesus
Lived through a vessel of earth's fragile clay,
Loving and giving and poured forth for others,
A living sacrifice from day to day.

"Others, Lord, yes—Others,
Let this my motto be;
Help me to live for Others,
That I may live like Thee."

(Author unknown)

Staff Members at Christ's Home, 1963

Chapter XIII

SIGNIFICANT FACTS ABOUT THE HOME

The Charter of Christ's Home

This ministry was incorporated, December 4, 1916, in the State of Pennsylvania, under the name: *Christ's Home for Children.* The charter was amended November 19, 1930, changing the name to: *Christ's Home,* in order to include the ministry to the aged, the missionary rest home, and general missionary work.

The charter states the original purpose of Christ's Home in the following words:

> To provide and conduct a home for delinquent, homeless or dependent children, where they may be kept under Christian influence and trained to become useful citizens of society.

The charter further states the principle by which the Home is to obtain the income for operation and maintenance, as follows:

> The said home in its care and support shall rely entirely in faith upon the promises of God in answer to prayer.

The original officers of the Home and their offices were:

Dr. Albert Oetinger ..... President
Mr. Frederick Schwab ..... Vice President
Mr. Walter Oetinger ..... Secretary
Mrs. Albert Oetinger ..... Treasurer
Miss Katharina Krausslach ..... Matron

Charter members of Christ's Home, who were the original incorporators of the Home are:

Albert Oetinger
Katharina Krausslach
Frederick J. Schwab
Ida Wehrheim
John Lambrecht
Charles Wurst
Lulu Carter Thorn
Anna J. Lambrecht
Mary Yeager
E. H. Thorn
Wm. P. Pennepacker
Minnie B. Sellers

All the foregoing charter staff members have now finished their earthly ministry with the exception of one, Minnie B. Sellers. She is still active in this year of 1963 in the work of the Lord to which He called her on June 11, 1912.

Board of Directors, 1963

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The charter of the Home makes provision for a Board of Managers, consisting of five members, for carrying on the business of the corporation in a legal manner. The original Board consisted of the five original officers. Today (1963) the Board consists of:

Robert Isbell ..... President
Donald Dewey ..... Treasurer
Minnie B. Sellers ..... Secretary
Louise Zendler ..... Staff Member
William Hamilton ..... Staff Member

In the process of time, provision has also been made for auxiliary board members, who act in an advisory (but non-voting) capacity. The following are the five auxiliary board members as of February, 1963:

John Bear ..... Supt. Home for the Aged
Karl Liebold ..... Staff Member
Edward Schwarz ..... Bookkeeper
Charles Warfield ..... Staff Member
Edward Jerchau ..... Administrator Paradise Home

Board of Directors, 1935

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

After several years of planning for a way to bring about a reunion of former boys and girls of Christ's Home, it was decided by a meeting of some graduates to form an alumni association. Thousands of children had passed through the Home and were finding their own way in the World. These would constitute the membership of the association. It was planned to elect officers and to hold regular meetings. Later several projects were started to encourage the staff and to further the objectives of Christ's Home. Annual Spring, Summer and Fall meetings are sponsored.

The first meeting of the newly formed Alumni Association was held at the Home in Warminster, September, 1929. Date for this annual reunion and business meeting has been fixed at the second Saturday in June. This is a time to renew old friendships, both graduates and staff, to meet new faces, and to keep in touch with one another, also to carry on the business of the Alumni Association. Officers are elected and various functions are attended to. On this occasion, at the close of the banquet, prizes are awarded to honor students of the Home's 7th and 8th grades.

An Annual Alumni picnic is enjoyed on the third or last Saturday of July at the Home's Warminster pools and picnic pavilion. This is a day for whole families to enjoy.

Founder's Day was instituted by the Association in the year 1935, in order to commemorate Dr. Oetinger and Mother Krausslach. This has become a part of the Home's special all-day religious services. Planning and engagement of special speakers and conducting of the Founders' Day services is now supervised by the staff of the Home.

Provision has been made for a yearly social evening in the latter part of October on a Saturday. This is held in the boy's dining hall at Warminster. The staff is invited to, and honored at, this festive occasion.

Dr. Oetinger and Alumni (about 1929)

In addition, each year the Association provides a monetary gift for each dormitory, according to the number of children. This helps to sponsor a picnic or a trip for the occupants.

In October, 1958, the Alumni Association sponsored a testimonial banquet for staff members of the Home, whose years of faithful service ranged from 16 to 53 years. In 1963, it is planned to sponsor a similar affair for all the staff, regardless of number of years of service, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of Christ's Home.

The first alumni members to hold office in the newly formed association were:

Alfred Lambrecht ..... President
William Frenz ..... Secretary
Marie Strobel ..... Treasurer

The latest officers, elected June, 1963, are:

Francis Anthony ..... President
Selma Mahnke Cullman ..... Vice President
William Hastings ..... Secretary
Alfred Lambrecht ..... Treasurer

The staff of the Home cherishes the memories of these former boys and girls and appreciates their remembering and honoring their foster parents and Home. Its the outcome of real love for those who ministered to their needs while residing in Christ's Home.

May God bless each member of the Alumni Association, for they are precious jewels, which we covet for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Special Days and Chapel Services

Through the years since the founding of the Home, certain days have been set aside to commemorate special events. For example, all-day services are held in the Home six times during the year, at which time there are several worship gatherings in the Home's own chapel, with messages from visiting preachers and teachers of the word of God. These services are held as follows:

New Year's ..... January 1
Memorial Day ..... May 30
Independence Day ..... July 4
Labor Day ..... First Monday in Sept.
Founders' Day ..... Second Sunday in Oct.
Thanksgiving ..... Fourth Thursday in Nov.

An annual Bible Conference is held for one week in August, beginning on the first Sunday and ending on the following Sunday. There are three meetings each Sunday, and an evening meeting each weekday. Several guest speakers usually bring a series of messages for this occasion. The final assembly consists of a baptismal service conducted at the Home's pool. This is especially for those who may wish to follow the Lord through the rite of immersion. (Since this usually follows the vacation of the children at nearby Bible camps, a number of the Home's own boys and girls, who have recently made spiritual decisions, frequently request baptism.)

The Alumni Association holds an annual reunion on the second Saturday of June, and an annual picnic in July.

Founders' Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of October to commemorate Dr. Albert Oetinger and Mother Krausslach. An all-day gathering is held, consisting of two chapel services with guest speaker.

The many friends and visitors who attend the various special services are always cordially invited to stay for the day, enjoying the hospitality of the Home, rejoicing in the goodness of God who supplies all the spiritual feasts, as well as the physical food.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

In the year 1910 the work of Christ's Home had expanded into missionary fields across the seas and in Latin America. Homes for children were established in Turkey, Persia, and Nicaragua.

During World War I the Home's missionary, Pastor Herman Pflaumer, at Urumish, Persia, was killed by the Kurds. His wife and all the children at that home were evacuated. Those in the Kessab, Turkey, home were also evacuated. Many of the children died on the journey.

Mr. and Mrs. John Herter and family, together with two other missionaries from Turkey and three missionaries from Persia, finally, after enduring hardships and suffering, arrived home in the United States.

The two overseas orphanages and the one in Central America, established by Christ's Home, were all completely destroyed. Why God permitted this, no one knows. One day, however, we shall understand. The Lord hath given and the Lord hath taken, blessed be the name of the Lord!

Missionaries of Christ's Home in Kessab, Turkey

The Divisions of the Home

Christ's Home consists of three main divisions, each in a different location, with its own buildings and personnel, and a distinctive ministry:

1. The original home for homeless and dependent children
2. The old folks and missionaries rest home,
3. The Paradise home for pre-school children.

Christ's Home for needy children was established in the city of Philadelphia, October 1903. It moved to Warminster, Pa., in 1907, after a homestead with buildings and a few acres of ground was purchased there.

The Old Folks and Missionary Rest Home was established in 1923 at Warminster. It is located just half a mile from the children's division. Buildings and ground, comprising the old St. Stephens property, were acquired for this purpose.

The Paradise Home for pre-school children was dedicated October, 1936. It is located on Route 30, seven miles east of Lancaster, Pa., 65 miles southeast of Warminster. A mansion house, several other buildings, and eleven acres of ground constituted the estate of a Christian gentleman, who gave it for this purpose. (Children remain at Paradise until six years of age, then are transferred to Warminster.)

Requirements for admission to any of the three divisions of the Home have not changed since formulated by the founders: "To help those whom no one else will help, to provide a home for the homeless and destitute."

Because the Home for the Aged is neither hospital nor nursing establishment, admissions are limited to those in reasonably good health—with no infectious diseases. Likewise, those with mental difficulties or the incorrigible cannot find provision for treatment at the Children's Home. But the poverty-stricken, the desolate, the abandoned, these are welcomed with open arms.

There are no sectarian distinctions; however, the Home is distinctly Christian. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is believed, and proclaimed, the Bible is honored as the Word of God, and is taught to all children and guests. The work was established through faith in Christ, it has prospered by employing prayer to Christ as the sole source of supply, and will always continue to look to Him. He is the creator and redeemer of mankind. The Home firmly believes there is no hope for mankind apart from Him.

THE FACILITIES OF CHRIST'S HOME

In the 60 years since its inception, Christ's Home has grown from one small city dwelling to a small country village. It encompasses some 370 acres of land with more than 30 buildings, where over 300 souls are cared for daily by a loving heavenly Father.

Today there are 10 dormitories housing 166 children, 62 aged guests, 4 missionaries and 60 staff members. In addition, there are 15 auxiliary staff members and helpers engaged in this ministry.

There are five main kitchens at the Home, a bakery, a cannery, a cold storage and fast-freezing plant. The land supports a dairy herd, supplying milk and milk products for the large family, pasture for both steer and young stock that supply meat for the table, and provides winter feed for livestock. Hundreds of chickens give thousands of nourishing eggs and, occasionally, a poultry dinner. In addition, a truck farm and the orchards bring forth vegetables and fruits for healthy appetites of growing boys and girls.

To support so large an organization requires many buildings and services: Two dwellings for the truck and dairy farmers' households; a chapel with organ and accommodations for 300 persons; a school complete with facilities for teaching eight grades; and the main office. For the staff and helpers there are several residences, also a dwelling for housing men of the streets. For supplies and maintenance there are four barns, industrial building (housing laundry and print shop, etc.), machine shop and garage. In addition, many miscellaneous pump, power houses, and outbuildings are on the grounds.

Six artesian wells supply water. A sewage disposal plant cares for sanitary requirements at Warminster. Swimming pools at both Warminster and Paradise provide summer refreshment for both children and staff.

The main office is located at the Warminster children's division. Here the superintendent, purchasing agent, and an office force of three look after the commercial interests of the Home. All correspondence is conducted, and all the business is transacted, here. Mailing operations for the Home's publications are performed here also.

Two publications are issued at regular intervals. GOD'S DEALING is a bi-monthly pamphlet, covering the current events of the Home. It is sent free of charge to friends and to anyone requesting it. An Annual Report is issued at the close of each fiscal year, after the books have been audited. This reveals complete information of the past year's activities. It presents the status of the grounds and buildings. It reviews the improvements and renovations, and lists the gifts and bequests received. Alumni actions are

the status of the grounds and buildings. It reviews the improvements and renovations, and lists the gifts and bequests received. Alumni actions are documented and typical letters from the graduates are reproduced. Requirements for admission to the Home, rules and regulations are set forth therein. Copies of the Report are mailed to all donors, interested friends and prayer warriors.

To the glory of God it can be affirmed that there have never been any drives or solicitations or begging for money, clothing, food or any other material requirements. God, Himself, has supplied every need. To Him alone all requests are made known. These secret requests He has openly rewarded by supplying all material needs; and, more importantly, the means for spiritual growth and development!

THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER THINGS

> *"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written everyone, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."* (John 21:25)

The foregoing account could well conclude with the above text from holy scripture, since it, like John's gospel narrative, does not include all "things which Jesus did" during the past sixty years through the ministry of Christ's Home. It is a report far from exhaustive though faithfully prepared and earnestly sent forth with petitions to God that it shall bring great blessing into the hearts and homes of its readers. Christ's Home has been used of God the Father to continue the performance of things which His Son "Jesus began to do and teach" (Acts 1:1) by the energy of His Holy Spirit in response to the believing prayers of His redeemed people.

This report also breathes the assuring testimony of the Home's administration and staff that the same Father in heaven shall continue to have the same devotion of His dedicated servants to carry out His divinely planned program for Christ's Home through the days that lie ahead.

With the publication of this report is also transmitted the deepest appreciation of every worker at the Home to the great host of workers around the world who have been led to share their time, talent and substance with the Lord's work at Christ's Home. Books could be written about this, too, but there is a record filed in the archives of heaven and when the roll of God's saints is called, their record shall also be displayed. We earnestly hope that all of you will appear then with all who are purchased with the precious blood of God's Son, Jesus the Christ, and shall enter into His joys redeemed and rewarded forever.

The Superintendent

This Is
CHRIST'S HOME
In Action

THE HARVEST IS NEAR

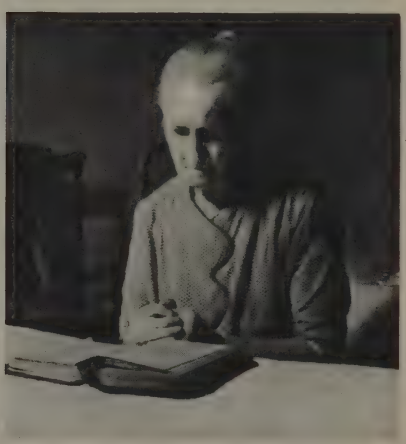
Go forth, go forth ye workers—
Ye heralds of the Lord!
And spread through all creation
God's mighty saving Word;
With lavish hand cast forth the seed,
The time is short, and great the need!

Go forth ye glad proclaimers
Of God's eternal Son!
And labor in His vineyard
Until the day is done.
Beside all waters sow the seed,
And He will bless your work indeed.

Go forth, go forth ambassadors,
Your worthy Lord make known!
You represent a lofty cause—
God's grace at Calvary shown.
Bright angels fain would sweep through time
And do your work—'tis so sublime.

Soon will your toiling season
Come to a happy close—
The Lord shall call His workers
To share His sweet repose—
His glad "Well done" will then repay
What's done for Him on life's rough way.

—C. C. Crowston



Train a child in the way . . . and when old will not depart